



The fashion journalist
of the year in New York
SPARE CHIC, PAGE 14



The miserable wives
of Westminster
JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH, P15



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THE TIMES

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 1995

'Obey the rules' plea by Heseltine

Firms begin to drop MPs as advisers

BY ANDREW PIERCE, PHILIP WEBSTER AND ALICE THOMSON

COMPANIES are discarding MPs as advisers because they feel they are no longer worth the money now that Parliament has adopted new rules on members' behaviour.

But as many Conservatives came to terms yesterday with their declining commercial value, others were thinking of ways round the rules or even threatening to defy them. Such MPs were urged to bow to the Commons vote forcing them to disclose their income from consultancy when Michael Heseltine said they should abide by the "spirit and letter" of the new regime.

The Deputy Prime Minister was trying to avoid further embarrassment for the Government after the heavy defeat on Monday over the disclosure of MPs' consultancy fees, but the Tories' morale was at a low ebb as they left for the break before the opening of Parliament next week.

David Mellor was one of the first high-profile casualties of the lobbyists' cutbacks when Shandwick Consultants dispensed with his services. Tom McNally, Shandwick's public affairs director, said: "It was a mutual decision to coincide with the vote on Monday. The arrangement was frankly no longer worth the candle."

The Association of Professional Political Consultants has also banned payments to MPs and their families, and a lobby firm chaired by Lord Parkinson is being wound up because one of its directors could become an MP at the general election.

With political lobbyists severing links with MPs, many



Mellor: an early victim of the new rules

Conservatives fear that trade associations, professional bodies and commercial companies will also ditch them. "I fear our best days are behind us," a former minister said last night.

More worrying for ministers is the threat of some MPs to refuse to admit their outside earnings. Sir Michael Neuber, a member of the 1922 Committee executive, said: "I do have to think very carefully about whether I observe this new rule of the House. It's not the rule of the land."

Others suggested that they would redraw their contracts with companies to conceal large parts of what they earn as being "non-parliamentary", and some spoke of urging their firms to appoint them as non-executive directors to avoid revealing their fees.

But Mr Heseltine, speaking after consulting John Major in Israel, told the Commons: "I can say unreservedly on behalf of the Prime Minister and myself that both of us believe

that it is right for all MPs to enter into the spirit and the letter of the decisions that were taken yesterday evening. That was the will of the House."

Mr Major was still being privately accused by Tory MPs of mishandling the issue and was himself understood to feel bruised that his advisers had underestimated the strength of the rebellion.

Labour meanwhile seized on the threat of a Tory backlash to demand that the Nolan Committee investigate the funding of political parties. In the Commons, John Prescott said: "Can't the public know where the Tory party gets its money from? Who has paid for a knighthood, who has bought a peerage and which foreign businessmen have bankrolled the party (before) fleeing the country?"

Tony Blair hailed the vote as a "humiliation of the Conservative party" entirely of its own making and insisted that members must be bound by the rules. "The public will simply find it intolerable that MPs, having voted in the way they did, should then simply ignore that."

The House of Lords, however, rejected a call to follow the Commons and reveal details of payments for consultancies. Peers agreed last night to set up "anti-sleaze" controls banning lobbying and to set up a public register of members' financial interests, but drew the line at disclosing fees.

Matthew Parris, page 2
Lobbyists turn away, page 8
Simon Jenkins, page 16
Leading article, page 17



David Hockney brandishing a postcard of Fragonard's 'Girl with a Dog' at yesterday's press conference: 'It is very beautiful,' he said

Hockney steps into child-in-the-bath row

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

DAVID HOCKNEY yesterday criticised the laws that led to Julia Somerville, the newsreader, and her partner being arrested over pictures of a girl in the bath.

The artist criticised a politically correct world in which "warm, beautiful" portraits of human beings could be misread as less than innocent images. Without mentioning by name Miss Somerville, who is being investigated by police over the 28 photographs, he attacked Scotland Yard and Boots, the chemists.

A Kodak employee in a Boots store contacted the police over the pictures he was



Julia Somerville: said to be delighted

developing. "There is something a bit odd and deeply wrong when somebody is trying to make warm pictures

and are questioned by police," Mr Hockney said.

Speaking at the Royal Academy at the launch of a retrospective of his drawings, Mr Hockney went on to explain what would result from the widespread imposition of some of the laws involved in the Somerville case: "If they really want to impose them we will have a lot of fun. They would have to start taking a lot of pictures down," he said, adding that MPs were "Philistines who were not concerned with beauty".

He then brandished a "dirty" postcard, an explicit image of a young girl, no more than 13, reclining on a bed in a revealing position. It was painted in 1790 by Fragonard,

the French master. Mr Hockney's point was that there are ways and ways of looking at a child.

He said of the painting: "She is 12 or 14 maybe, and in a very provocative pose with a dog. It is very beautiful."

Fragonard was a painter of sentimental subjects; scholars are divided about whether images such as his *Girl with a Dog* were "serious intellectual material", a study of women in all their beauty, or explicitly titillating images.

It was certainly regarded as "sexy" at the time. One scholar said: "This is probably not the best example for Hockney to have chosen. It is not totally innocent."

Julia Somerville, 48, and her

partner, Jeremy Dixon, 56, were both said to be delighted at Mr Hockney's comments. Edward Jones, Mr Dixon's partner in their Covent Garden architectural practice, said: "Anyone who supports the plight of my partner is to be welcomed, especially if they have such a reputation as David Hockney, who is a truly fine artist. David Hockney uses his camera extensively in his art."

Mr Jones declined to say on whether he and Mr Dixon were friends with the artist. "This whole subject is sensitive," he said.

Art school accused, page 9
Brookes cartoon, page 16
Letters, page 17

Ministers criticised in Iraq arms case

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was pitched into a second damaging arms-to-Iraq controversy last night after the Court of Appeal quashed the convictions of four businessmen because vital documents had been withheld from the defence.

Lord Taylor of Gossforth, the Lord Chief Justice, ruled that the failure of ministers to disclose papers requested by lawyers for four men involved in the arms firm Orditec had prevented them from mounting a proper defence at their trial in 1992.

He ruled that their convictions for breaching an arms embargo to Iraq were not "safe and satisfactory" after documents from the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign Office and the Security Services were produced showing wide knowledge and complicity across Whitehall of the arms trade

with Baghdad. Public interest immunity certificates preventing government documents which could have cleared the men being disclosed at the original trial were signed by Kenneth Baker, the former Home Secretary, and Peter Lilley, then Trade and Industry Secretary and now at the Department of Social Security.

Both men also signed immunity certificates in the Matrix Churchill case, the subject of Sir Richard Scott's inquiry into arms sales to Iraq which is expected to force ministerial resignations when it reports early next year.

When the Orditec appeal was launched earlier this year fresh immunity certificates were signed by Douglas Hurd, then Foreign Secretary, and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. Most of the documents were later disclosed voluntarily or by order of the appeal judges.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday the Government would await the findings of the Scott inquiry, which was examining both the Orditec and Matrix Churchill cases.

Mr Heseltine acknowledged the Orditec verdict spelt further trouble: "It is a very serious situation. The issues raised by the Orditec decision are within the view of Lord Justice Scott and we know that he intends to deal with it in his



Pat Barker is Booker winner

BY DALYA ALBERGE AND EMMA WILKINS

PAT BARKER last night unexpectedly beat off Salman Rushdie, the hottest favourite for years, to win the 1995 Booker Prize for *The Ghost Road*, a story of death and sex in the trenches.

The 53-year-old novelist was the only woman on the shortlist for the £20,000 award. The decision confirmed the Booker's capacity to surprise: Rushdie had been widely expected to win with *The Moor's Last Sigh*, and Martin Amis failed to make the shortlist of five rather than six books.

War memories, page 3
George Walden, page 15

Witness's collapse halts West trial

BY BILL FROST AND RICHARD DUCE

ROSEMARY WEST'S trial was halted suddenly yesterday when the final witness in the case collapsed after telling jurors that Frederick West had a pact with his wife that he alone would take the blame.

Janet Leach, 39, a mother of five, had been appointed as a lay observer, or "appropriate adult", to represent West's interests after his arrest. Mrs Leach suffered a stroke last year after sitting through more than 80 interviews between West and detectives and having private conversations with him in his cell.

Mr Justice Mantell told the jury that after the lunchtime break she had fallen sick and could neither speak nor move her legs. Later, she was said to be in a satisfactory condition at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester where she was being kept for observation.

Mrs Leach had told the court that she had been devastated by some of West's disclosures, but had not wanted him to see how upset she was. She told the court that West had told her "he would take the blame for everything ... he and Rosemary had entered into a pact and Rosemary would never say anything."

West had told her that what he was telling the police was "not totally the truth". She told Winchester Crown Court: "He told me that in confidence, and that it would all come out eventually and he was protect-

ing Rose." After living with his confession, Mrs Leach, who had made an agreement not to disclose West's conversations with her, suffered a stroke in June last year.

She was called by the prosecution to counter evidence used by the defence taken from interview tapes in which West said he had been acting alone. After West's suicide in Winslow Green Prison, Birmingham, on New Year's Day, Mrs Leach took advice from a solicitor on the confidentiality issue. She then told the police about West's confession.

Giving evidence yesterday, Mrs Leach appeared extremely distressed and was often close to tears.

After the lunch adjournment, the judge said: "This is very serious and at the same time very unfortunate. The lady giving evidence has been taken ill."

"I know that an ambulance has been summoned. You were told this morning that she suffered a stroke and at the moment she can neither speak nor move her legs. Let us hope it is not what we fear it might be." The judge added: "For the time being, we cannot continue."

Mrs Leach's collapse meant that Richard Ferguson, QC, for the defence, was unable to conclude his cross-examination. The jury was told to return as normal today.

West promise, page 5

Rabin shrines desecrated

Some of the impromptu shrines erected in Israel in memory of Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Prime Minister, have been desecrated.

Israel radio reported that a street memorial in a suburb of Tel Aviv had been set on fire, memorial posters had been slashed and schoolchildren had cheered in class when the news of his death was announced. Page 13

Stone Age animal carvings saved



The new Portuguese Government halted work on a dam, saving the world's largest collection of Stone Age engravings at Foz Côa, in northeast Portugal. An art expert said the role of *The Times* had been crucial. Animals illustrated include oxen, horses and goats. Page 13

French reshuffle

The French Cabinet was reshuffled by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, who had formally offered his Government's resignation. President Chirac immediately reappointed him. Page 12

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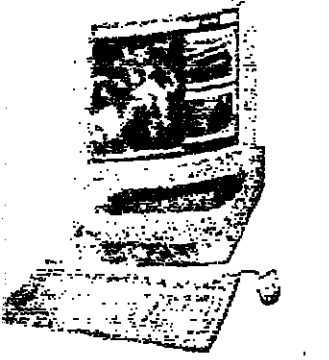
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TV & RADIO	24, 48	LETTERS	17	ARTS	36-38	FASHION	14
WEATHER	24	OBITUARIES	19	CHESS & BRIDGE	44	MEDIA & MARKETING	23
CROSSWORDS	24, 48	SIMON JENKINS	16	COURT & SOCIAL	18	LAW REPORT	39

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Ultrasonic lion king roars again and puts little creatures to flight

KIDNEY stones? What kidney stones? The lion king has recovered his roar. Michael Heseltine, deputising for John Major at PM's Questions yesterday, threw back his mane and sent dozens of the smaller creatures of the forest scurrying for cover back into the undergrowth.

The Deputy Prime Minister warmed up only gradually. Challenged by Sir Teddy Taylor (C, Southend East) to admit that European monetary policy was wrecking continental economies, Mr Heseltine was at his most

avuncular. He managed to choose from Sir Teddy's remarks something with which it was possible to agree (always a challenge) and commended this.

To Nigel Evans, an energetic Tory poodle from Wales who had asked the Prime Minister to state his engagements for the day, Heseltine explained that Mr Major was away ("As far away as possible") shouted one Labour backbencher.

Evans then offered a simpering invitation to the Deputy PM to recite at "the stench of humbug" from union-sponsored Labour MPs during the Nolan debate.

In reply, Mr Heseltine offered a defence of the Prime Minister's attitude to the Nolan inquiry. This was an apology for Major which it would be unfair to call lacklustre and which was better than faltering, but which to call "robust" might very slightly overstate. Was he, anxious friends wondered, still troubled by those kidney stones reported some weeks ago?

John Prescott (Tony Blair's deputy) rose, to test Mr Heseltine's health. Mr Prescott is a test of anybody's health. In buccaneering form, the Humberside MP belittled that the Prime Minister and his Deputy were completely out of step with public opinion.

Did they share his "out-rage" at rumours that some Tory backbenchers might



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

refuse to disclose their earnings from consultancy? Heseltine began his build-up deceptively. Why, yes, of course, he said, Members must obey the rules. There followed what from anyone else would be called a nano-second's pause and from Prescott an astonishing silence.

The Mouth of the Humber then articulated a demand for

disclosure of the sources of Tory party funding. The Deputy PM should "come clean", he declared.

Heseltine came more than clean, he came deafening. Labour wanted "one-track" MPs, "totally beholden to their party whips". That was pretty rich from the Deputy Leader of the most totalitarian party in history, and the Opposition jeered.

But jeers are to Heseltine what cocaine is to the addict: his nostrils flared, his eyes blazed and he launched (after another prod from Prescott)

into a prolonged roar about Labour's "sleazy politics... sold out... and on he yelled, John Prescott gesticulating at him to turn down the volume, wretched Tory backbenchers cheering in gratitude at this small rallying of morale.

He bowed out to a smashing pay-off line. Challenged over the cost of his new post, Heseltine boasted about a billion pounds' investment secured for the North East. "I'm cheap at the price!" he shouted, to cheers, as they

run down the curtains. Colleagues with direct experience of kidney stones say that the pain is awful but that there is now an alternative to invasive surgery: a treatment called "ultrasound".

A beam of intense noise is directed at the offending pebble, breaking it up. Has anyone considered the use of acoustic baffles to bounce Heseltine's own speeches in a concentrated stream directed at his own kidneys? His speeches break rocks.

No stone would stand a chance.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Divorcing couples will not be forced into mediation

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

DIVORCING couples will not be forced into mediation under the Government's proposals to reform the divorce laws, the Lord Chancellor said last night.

In his first speech since it was disclosed that his disputed reforms are expected to be in the Queen's Speech, Lord Mackay of Clashfern added that he would not be cutting lawyers out of the divorce process.

Nor, he told the Solicitors Family Law Association, would he be denying legal aid to anyone who refused to go through the mediation process.

"People will not be forced to mediate," Lord Mackay said. "They will be encouraged to give mediation a fair chance as an option for resolving the issues, but only if it is the best way for these problems to be resolved. By definition mediation cannot be forced upon unwilling participants."

Lord Mackay, clearly seeking to allay some of the legal profession's main concerns, added that mediators could not take the place of lawyers.

"No one who requires such legal help will be denied that help, provided they meet the usual eligibility tests for that help," he added, would be available in situations where mediation was not appropriate.

The important factor will be for clients to receive the

right professional assistance at the right time, whether from lawyers, mediators or marriage guidance counsellors.

Lord Mackay dismissed fears that his proposals would lead to a two-tier system in which more affluent individuals would use lawyers while others were forced to use mediation. The proposals contained a presumption in favour of mediation, which meant it should be considered in all but the most urgent cases before litigation was started.

But he added: "Clearly there will be cases where the breakdown of the marriage has been too painful for couples to negotiate in this way and legal aid will be available in situations where mediation is not appropriate."

The Lord Chancellor went on to make what some took as a key concession: the scrapping of the idea that everyone embarking on divorce should attend a compulsory information session.

This has been attacked, most recently by Martin Mears, the President of the Law Society, as likely to involve a kind of "public Alcoholics Anonymous" session where people from all walks of life would be obliged to attend and reveal their marital difficulties.

Lord Mackay suggested that instead information could be provided via a video, to be

viewed privately, backed up with a telephone inquiry service to the people offering the various marriage guidance services.

He added that he would wish to test out various options in a pilot study before full arrangements came into play.

Lord Mackay, looking tired after the battles with Cabinet colleagues and MPs over the past two weeks, added: "It is not without a great deal of thought and soul searching that I have brought forward these proposals."

"In all my self-examination, I have not been satisfied in the least that retention of fault, in the legal evidential sense, does or can support the institution of marriage."

He added that almost no one had anything good to say about the present method of dissolving marriages. Even his critics acknowledged the existing situation was fundamentally unsatisfactory and did little to ease the destruction and misery of divorce.

He emphasised that neither these reforms nor his plans to overhaul the legal aid scheme, were directed at cost cutting. The divorce proposals were aimed at helping families experiencing a marriage breakdown.

"I believe the proposed changes are for the good and will make for a better divorce system," he said.



From right, Paul Grecian, Bryan Mason, Stuart Blackledge and Colin Phillips, whose convictions were quashed on appeal yesterday

Arms-case businessmen's conviction quashed

Continued from page 1

report. The Opposition immediately called for heads to roll.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "Once again ministers have been caught out trying to cover up their role in the supply of arms to Iraq. None of these businessmen would have been convicted in the first place if ministers had not abused their power by placing gagging orders before the courts."

Mr Cook demanded that the Scott inquiry report should draft strict new rules on the use of immunity certificates by ministers.

Lawyers for the four businessmen said last night they were considering suing the Government for compensation. They estimate the costs of the case to the taxpayer to be "not far short of a million pounds."

Paul Grecian, the Ordtec managing director, together with Bryan Mason, technical

manager, and Stuart Blackledge, a project engineer, received a suspended one-year jail sentence in February 1992 for selling 300,000 artillery fuses to the Saddam regime on an export licence which listed Jordan as the end-user. A fourth man, Colin Phillips, was fined.

Officials from the Scott inquiry were present in court and said afterwards that their

report would contain a full account of the Ordtec affair. They admitted that it was an "open secret" that Sir Richard Scott's report would be highly critical of the Government's role.

Sir Richard's inquiry has spent three years examining the role of government ministers and officials in the Matrix Churchill trial, which collapsed for similar reasons.

Boss likely to sue Government

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON

PAUL GRECIAN, the former Ordtec managing director cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday, said that the "five-year legal nightmare" had cost him his livelihood.

He is likely to sue the Government for compensation for the collapse of his company.

Mr Grecian said, however, that he was not bitter. "It's a

sorry mess, the overall picture. But it is what we have come to expect."

He faces an additional problem in that the American authorities are seeking to extradite him for alleged illegal arms sales to Iraq. Kevin Robinson, Mr Grecian's solicitor, said: "We hope to sort that out in the next couple of days in the light of the appeal court judgment."

Bryan Mason, the technical manager at Ordtec, was also left without a job as a result of the court case, as was Stuart Blackledge, the project engineer.

Colin Phillips, who worked for EC Transport, the shipping agency that arranged the transport of the artillery fuses via Jordan, said: "It has all been very stressful. At one point I thought I was going to be in prison when my baby was born."

Lord Taylor asked in the course of a 20-page judgement.

Mr Grecian, whose business collapsed as a result of the trial, claimed that he had supplied the security services with information about Iraqi arms procurement, including the first tip-off that President Saddam Hussein was constructing a "super gun". The Lord Chief Justice found that there had been "sustained contact" with M15 and M16 through Detective Constable Wilkinson, a Special Branch "controller".

The extent of these contacts had not been disclosed at the trial and Lord Taylor said that they "may well have influenced a jury".

All four men pleaded guilty but claimed they entered pleas under duress from the Government, which was unwilling to admit its own involvement. The judgement accepted that the guilty pleas had been made under pressure.

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LONDON ELECTRICITY

Curbs on security guards must wait

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD has rejected cross-party calls for an early overhaul of the private security industry and has told senior Tories that there is no prospect of a Bill being introduced in the next session of Parliament.

Proposals for firms to be registered, and for a licensing system to prevent convicted criminals working as security guards, are unlikely to become law before a general election. Home Office officials say that Mr Howard is worried over proposals to allow private companies access to national criminal records as a way of vetting employees. The Home Secretary is also concerned about protests from civil liberties campaigners if security staff are not protected by laws that prevent disclosure of some past convictions.

Mr Howard will reply shortly to a detailed report by the Home Affairs Select Committee, which pressed for urgent changes to curb widespread abuses.

The industry has doubled in size over the past 20 years and MPs have received complaints about companies employing staff with convictions for violence, offering private security contracts to homes and businesses. In one case, a guard for a security firm was found to be an escaped prisoner serving a sentence for murder. The MPs said that employees should be licensed and that statutory regulations were needed for the contract guarding sector.

Mr Howard's best hope of introducing changes would have been within a crime Bill but, in the absence of such a piece of legislation in the coming session, there is little possibility of new laws being introduced under the wing of other Home Office legislation. A private member's Bill is unlikely to be backed.

Alun Michael, Labour's home affairs spokesman, said: "Proper protection of the public requires statutory regulation of the private security industry."

Minister shelves sale of Dover harbour

The sale of the port of Dover has been postponed by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, but he confirmed yesterday that the privatisation of Ipswich and Tyne ports would go ahead despite local opposition.

Sir George said the sale of Dover would be put on hold for at least two years until the impact of the Channel Tunnel on the ferry industry became clearer. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Dame Vera Lynn were among those who voiced concern about the sell-off.

Sea search called off

A search for three fishermen whose boat sank in unexplained circumstances in the Bristol Channel on Monday was called off last night. No survivors have been found. The three are Peter Smith, 39, of St Just, Cornwall, the skipper, married with a five-year-old son, and Paul Bennett, 35, and his brother Tim, 31, both single, from Penzance.

Chris Evans censured

The Radio 1 disc jockey Chris Evans, right, abused his position as a broadcaster by urging listeners to boycott Shell petrol stations. BBC governors have ruled. Mr Evans was reacting in June to the oil company's plans, later reversed, to dump the Brent Spar at sea. The governors concluded that his remark was ill-judged, even though it had been made in a light-hearted and bantering tone.



Lawyers abandon trial

Lawyers representing four men accused of being involved in the murder of Margaret Wilson, who was battered and shot by a mob at a loyalist drinking den, walked out of the trial yesterday. The QCs, their juniors and solicitors gave no reason for their decision. Lord Justice Nicholson adjourned the case at Belfast Crown Court until tomorrow.

Selfish society alert

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, painted a depressing picture last night of a breakdown of communities leading to a "something-for-nothing, me-first society". In a lecture to an east London charity, he gave warning of a growing culture of selfishness and called for a new balance between giving and taking. Put the heart back, page 16

Mini wins accolade

A panel from the specialist motoring magazine *Autocar* last night chose the Mini as the car of the century. Michael Harvey, the Editor, said: "What better car to win than the Mini, a stroke of genius that changed family cars for ever." The panel's motoring man of the century was Enzo Ferrari, the celebrated sports car maker.

Wilson leaves his archive to nation

By ALAN HAMILTON

LORD WILSON of Rievaulx left his entire archive of political papers to Baroness Falkender, his former political secretary and close confidante. It was disclosed in his will published yesterday.

But unlike the Churchill archive, Lord Wilson's papers cannot be sold. Lady Falkender is acting only as literary executor: the documents will belong to a charitable trust and will be permanently available to researchers at their new home in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

Lord Wilson, who died in May aged 79, left estate valued at £490,992 net, largely accounted for by his apartment near Victoria station in London. Probate has been granted to Lady Wilson and their sons Robin and Giles.

According to the terms of his will, Lord Wilson left "his political papers, correspondence, speeches and memoranda and all rights therein" to Lady Falkender. The papers are being moved from London to the Bodleian.

A spokesman for Goodman Derrick, his solicitors, said yesterday that the arrangement would give effect to his wish that the papers be kept as part of the national heritage, and be available for research.

The will discloses that Lord Wilson was far from being a rich man. In his later years he survived on a prime ministerial pension of £36,000, of which Lady Wilson now receives only half. Since her husband's death the government has bent the rules and allowed her to keep the use of a ministerial car and chauffeur.

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Flamboyant editor of cocaine overd

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Flamboyant editor died of cocaine overdose

By A Staff Reporter

MICHAEL VERMEULEN, the flamboyant and fast-living editor of the men's magazine *GO*, died from a massive cocaine overdose, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mr Vermeulen, 38, of Islington, northeast London, was taken to Whittington Hospital on August 29 when a woman friend noticed he had vomited in his sleep and could not wake him. He was pronounced dead. His heart had stopped after taking twice the lethal level of the drug. Dr David Brown, a pathologist, told St Pancras Coroner's Court.

Danielle Minns, a musician, had spent the previous night with the editor and said he had drunk wine, beer and brandy. She assumed he had taken cannabis when he told her he had smoked a drug but insisted she had no idea that he had snorted cocaine.

Miss Minns said she had been a close friend of Mr Vermeulen for nearly a year and saw him about once a week. "He was lots of fun, generous and warm," she said, adding that he was not particularly depressed.

Detective Constable Nigel Taylor searched Mr Vermeulen's flat and that of his neighbour, where he had watched television with Miss Minns. No drug-taking paraphernalia was found and although there was a small quantity of cannabis in his kitchen, there were no traces of cocaine.

Asked by Dr Stephen Chan, the coroner, if it was possible Miss Minns had tidied up before the police arrived, he said: "I always keep an open mind."

Constable Taylor interviewed friends and colleagues of Mr Vermeulen and said: "The impression I get is that the gentleman had a very active life. He worked very hard and played very hard as well. It was generally known that he smoked cannabis, but nothing more than that."

Dr Chan commented: "I understand the deceased was a person who had a big appetite

for work and play, living life in the fast lane for the moment. To colleagues he may have been a larger than life hero but others may have looked at him in a less complimentary light.

"He was very popular in the various clubs he belonged to. He worked very long hours and was generally thought to be a man about town and a heavy drinker. He could hold his drink well and would consume a bottle of wine, several Martini cocktails and brandies on a daily basis."

Dr Brown said half the amount of cocaine that the American-born editor had consumed could be fatal. He explained the drug could cause spasms in the blood vessels to the heart. He gave the cause of death as cocaine overdose.

Recording a verdict of death by misadventure, Dr Chan said: "All the evidence satisfies me entirely that the consideration of a suicide verdict is totally inappropriate."

"There is no evidence that the deceased used cocaine regularly or habitually but I am satisfied he was conscious of what he was doing on that fatal morning. This rather excessive level pushed him beyond his physical tolerance, ending in tragedy."

The coroner added: "It is a matter of regret I have to reiterate yet again in this court the dangers of drug usage that so often leads to tragedy and premature death."



Vermeulen: death by misadventure

Driver who killed boys is fined £200

By Paul Wilkinson

A DRIVER who killed two teenage boys when he fell asleep and swerved into a group of army cadets was fined £200 yesterday after pleading guilty to driving without due care and attention. The charge was committed by the families of his two victims, Gareth Horton, 14, and Gavin Parsons, 17.

Leslie Parsons, 52, a lorry driver, said "In my opinion he should have been charged at least with causing death by dangerous driving. I always stop when I feel tired. It is the law for HGV drivers. There should be a similar law for car drivers."

David Horton, 44, also a lorry driver, attacked a system that he said allowed a driver to "get off" with a fine for causing the deaths of two boys. "I am absolutely devastated. My boy's life seems to be worth just £100." He said they were considering further legal action.

Magistrates at Pontefract, West Yorkshire, heard that James Inglis, 52, had fallen asleep on his way home from a 12-hour shift in a tractor factory in February. He had been working the shifts for a fortnight to pay for his daughter's wedding in Kenya. He was also fined £360, with £50 costs, for having no insurance and had his licence endorsed

with eight penalty points. As sentence was passed Mr Horton shouted at him "It's not over yet, you murderer."

Outside court, Inglis of South Kirkby, West Yorkshire, said the accident had "shattered" him. "I don't think I shall ever drive again. I can understand the families' grief and anger. I'm so sorry. I don't know what else to say."

Gavin and Gareth were walking home with two friends from a cadet meeting in their home town of South Elmsall when Inglis's saloon veered on to the pavement and hit them.

Thomas Klouda, prosecuting, said that they and their friend Timothy Benwintner, 16, were walking behind another cadet. "The car mounted the pavement, just missing him, but colliding with the three friends before striking the wall and overturning." Timothy was in hospital for several days with serious injuries.

Gordon Richardson, in mitigation, said Inglis was facing a charge of careless driving because he was not speeding and the manner of his driving had been good before he fell asleep. He told the magistrates: "Your responsibility is to judge this defendant as to the quality of his driving that night and not the terrible consequence of it."



Pat Barker's novel combines real-life characters with a shell-shocked soldier-hero

Booker winner inspired by war memories

By Daniel Johnson, Literary Editor

PAT BARKER's novel *The Ghost Road*, winner of the 1995 Booker Prize, is the culmination of a First World War trilogy in which the poets Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon are among several historical figures who make brief appearances.

It provides a broad panorama of life and death, with grisly depictions of trench warfare, shell-shocked survivors and the drab home front, enlivened by the erotic adventures of Billy Prior, its bisexual soldier-hero.

Miss Barker, 52, is an historian by training and had two children before deciding to become a full-time writer. Her interest in the war was stimulated by her grandfather's traumatic memories, and — unusually in a work of fiction — she adds a reading list for those who wish to know more about her sources.

She began the sequence with *Regeneration* in 1991 and continued with *The Eye in the Door* two years later. These novels introduced the real-life character of William Rivers, an army psychiatrist and friend of Sassoon, who is the most sympathetic figure in *The Ghost Road*; he tries unsuccessfully to persuade Billy Prior not to return to the Western Front after he is invalided out with shell-shock.

At various points in the narrative, Rivers, a former anthropologist, recalls his ex-

periences with Melanesian natives and reflects on the ritual of headhunting, which the British colonists had sought to stamp out. Miss Barker's husband is an anthropologist and she was able to draw on his knowledge to enrich her novel with this stark contrast to European attitudes to death.

The most controversial aspect of *The Ghost Road* is not the depictions of violence, which are realistic but not overdone, but the sex scenes. These will strike some readers as unnecessarily detailed, even pornographic.

Derwent May commented in his *Times* review: "Few women can have imagined their way into the male sex organ more thoroughly than Miss Barker, and she follows Prior's into many and varied places."

However, Prior's rather brutish attitude to his sexual partners is an integral part of his damaged personality, and hence colours the entire novel.

The novel ends in the last days of the war, and it is clear that any victory will be hollow for those who survive. But the deeper message of Pat Barker's remarkable trilogy is that war, and the qualities that it brings out in men, are an essential facet of the human condition, a dark, primordial force in our nature that is not to be denied.

George Walden, page 15

Hormone drug 'drove champion to suicide'

By John Goodbody

A FORMER European women's bodybuilding champion killed herself because she could not cope with the devastating physical effects caused by anabolic steroid abuse, an inquest was told yesterday.

Zoe Warwick, 35, who had campaigned against misuse of hormone drugs to improve competitors' physiques and performances, suffered from a wide range of chronic symptoms after consuming huge quantities herself.

She died after swallowing 42 sleeping pills at her home in Horrabridge, Devon — her fourth overdose in the past six years. Brian Hall-Tomkin, the coroner at Tavistock, recorded a verdict of suicide.

Miss Sanae Furiya, her companion for the past four years, said that Miss Warwick, a former RAF PT instructor, had admitted using anabolic steroids between 1985 and 1988, when she was ranked fourth in the world as a female bodybuilder. She began taking drugs after a trip to the United States.

Miss Furiya said her friend admitted taking 30 times the clinical dosage, causing "disability, problems of nausea and vertigo and many other problems. Her personality was also affected."

Miss Warwick suffered liver and pancreatic problems, stomach haemorrhages, skin rashes, amnesia, loss of teeth and hair, and was excessively aggressive.



Warwick was rated fourth in the world



Time is precious to George Schaller. No wonder he measures it so carefully.

Seventeen thousand climates and terrains

feet up on the Tibetan Plateau is the Chang Tang, or Northern Plain. Rolling away to the horizon, its immensity is broken only by snow capped ranges. Here the snow leopard stalks; yaks and antelope migrate over unknown paths.

Although this region is extremely remote, its wildlife is already in danger through man's encroachment.

George Schaller, science director of The Wildlife Conservation Society, decided that immediate action was necessary. And so he embarked on a race against time. Accompanied by Rolex.

The dependability of a Rolex is legendary, making it a natural choice for

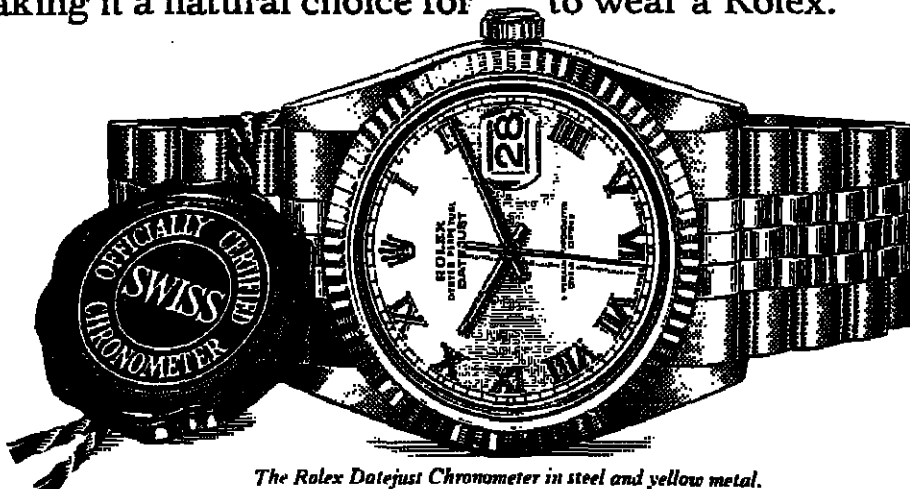
as rugged as those of Tibet.

So far it seems the race against time is being won. Schaller and his Chinese and Tibetan colleagues have helped the government of China establish a huge reserve that covers 300,000 square kilometres, an area large enough even to allow for the migrations of the Tibetan antelopes and yaks.

"If we don't protect the Chang Tang now, the magnificent species found here could soon vanish forever," Schaller says.

Faced with a project this important, the right equipment is vital. No wonder

George Schaller has chosen to wear a Rolex.



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Jilted lover 'injected with HIV'

By Michael Horsnell

A JILTED woman injected her sleeping lover with a syringe of her HIV-contaminated blood as a "surprise present" to mark their break-up, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Rhena Ndagga, 25, could not accept it when David Kabagwire, 28, a fellow Ugandan immigrant, told her he had met someone else.

Her victim, the court was told, has proved negative in three blood tests taken since the attack in May but could not yet be regarded as "completely in the clear". The

couple had always had protected sex.

In May this year, Miss Ndagga, of Barking, east London, told her lover that she had been told by immigration officials to leave the country. "She said rather ominously that she had a present for him," Garrett Byrne, for the prosecution, said.

In bed that night he awoke to a sharp pain in his left shoulder. Miss Ndagga told him she must have scratched him with her fingernail.

The following day as Mr Kabagwire bent down to look for a briefcase at her flat he felt a sharp pain in one of his

buttocks. "She said she had injected him that morning but had only put in a quarter of the blood so she had done it again. She said he would now be ill as well as her."

Mr Byrne added: "She said this was the surprise present."

Miss Ndagga has denied maliciously administering a poison — namely her blood — to endanger life or inflict grievous bodily harm. She has also pleaded not guilty to alternative charges of administering blood with intent to injure, aggrieve and annoy, and to attempted grievous bodily harm.

The trial continues.

Nuclear scientists sniff out bogus wines

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

SCIENTISTS at Harwell, the nuclear research centre in Oxfordshire, are using the world's most sensitive analytical instrument to unmask wines that pretend to be what they are not.

Tiny traces of metals picked up by the vines from the soil can be detected in the wine, and used to identify its origins. The method has been used in France but the new Harwell instrument is ten times more sensitive.

The team has been surprised at the huge differences between Chianti, Côtes du Rhône and Burgundian Cabernet Sauvignon. The metals hafnium and zirconium can be detected in some wines, but not others.

"What we need to do is to confirm that all samples of a given wine have the same trace elements," said Roger Brown of the analytical division at AEA Technology. "Then we could use it as a test for wine shippers or supermarkets worried they are being defrauded by their suppliers."

The machine is capable of detecting less than ten parts per million billion of some metals — equivalent to one milligram in 100,000 tonnes. Made by Fisons Instruments, of Winstford, Cheshire, it can detect trace elements in materials used to make semiconductors.

The machine, a high-resolution inductively coupled mass spectrometer, determines the mass of each fragment in any sample, enabling it to be identified.

Besides testing wines, it could also be used to detect fraudulent perfumes, coffee and mineral water, or monitor the levels of pollutants in rainwater. AEA Technology, a spin-off from the Atomic Energy Authority, is a company providing science and engineering know-how to many industries.

Products containing pesticide are to be withdrawn from general use 'as a precaution'

Cancer study halts sale of shampoos used to kill lice

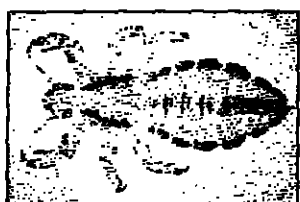
By Jeremy Laurence
Health Correspondent

SHAMPOOS and lotions containing a chemical used widely to treat head lice are to be withdrawn from sale because of cancer fears. Supplies of some gardening and farming products will also be restricted because they contain the same pesticide.

Dr Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, said studies on rats and mice showed that prolonged exposure to high doses of carbaryl could cause cancer. The chemical is not absorbed through the skin, however, and medical experts believe any risk would come only if it entered the mouth.

From January 1, pharmaceutical products containing the chemical will be available only on prescription. Until then, pharmacists have been instructed to advise patients to choose another product or consult their doctor. Each year, three million children use treatments for head lice.

Pesticides containing carbaryl for gardens and farms will be restricted to professional use. Supplies are to be stopped immediately and retailers will have one year to sell or dispose of their stock. Products affected include Murphy Lawn Pest



Human head louse: resistance increasing

Killer, Fisons Water-On Lawn Pest Killer, Autumn and Winter Toplawn made by Pan Britannica Industries, and Levington Water-On Lawn Pest Killer.

The continued use of carbaryl in flea collars for dogs and cats and in animal shampoos is being considered by the Government's Veterinary Products Committee. Dr Calman said there were no known cases of cancer in humans caused by carbaryl, despite the fact that it had been available for 40 years. There was no reason for parents who had used it on their children to worry. "This is not a cancer scare. It is a precautionary measure based on a theoretical risk from animal studies."

All doctors and pharmacists were alerted to the risk yesterday by letter and electronic mail. The letter lists preparations containing carbaryl as:

Caryderm lotion and shampoo, Clinicide lotion, Derbac-C lotion and shampoo and Suleo-C lotion and shampoo. Users who want to dispose of the products are advised to bag them and put with their rubbish rather than pour them down the sink.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society, the professional body for pharmacists, said it would be advising its 39,000 members to stop counter sales of head lice products containing carbaryl immediately.

Patients will be advised to switch to products containing other insecticides — malathion, permethrin and phenothrin. A review published in the *British Medical Journal* last September found that only permethrin was of proven effectiveness against head lice. Lotions are better than shampoos because they stay on the head longer.

Dr Calman said that studies in America seven years ago had suggested a possible link between carbaryl and cancer, but the studies were inadequate to warrant further action. New findings emerged from animal studies conducted for the French-American makers of carbaryl, Rhone-Poulenc, which has a plant in Dagenham, east London. Companies are legally obliged



Brands of anti-lice treatments containing carbaryl that have been banned

to inform the Government if a problem is discovered concerning a pesticide.

The information was considered by the Government's Committee on Carcinogenicity. The tests on animals were over a prolonged period and the doses used were very much higher than the intermittent use of a shampoo containing carbaryl. Any risk to humans was "likely to be

exceedingly small". The Committee on Safety of Medicines, which also studied the evidence, decided that carbaryl could remain available on prescription because it was broken down by the liver into different substances from those produced in animals. Also, lice have developed resistance to some insecticides. Products not containing carbaryl include Derbac-M, Proderm lotion/shampoo and Suleo-M (active ingredient: malathion); Lyclear Creme Rinse (active ingredient: permethrin); Full Marks (active ingredient: phenothrin).

Shampoo first appeared in the late 19th century, but came into general popular use only in the 1950s. The term shampoo is derived from champo, a word in Hindi meaning "to massage" or "to knead".

parents of affected children should also be treated. Lice are not confined to the head. Body lice live on clothing. The seams of suits, shirts and underclothes are a perfect refuge from which the insects can periodically migrate when they need to feed off their hosts. The more often the clothes are cleaned the less likely they are to harbour parasites.

Crab lice haunt the hotter, sweeter, hairier parts of the anatomy, including armpits, beards and eyelashes.

DR THOMAS
STUTTAFORD

Playground scourge that never went away

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

HEAD lice used to be as inescapable as death or taxes. Tenacious and nearly invisible, they live by sucking blood from the scalp. Autumn is the worst season for head lice and primary schools their main hunting grounds.

Although claims of an epidemic are often made, there are only about 50,000 to 60,000 reported new cases a year in Britain, compared with three million 25 years ago, according to Dr John Maunders of the Medical Entomology Centre at Cambridge.

Lice cannot fly, jump or swim and soon die once they lose contact with their host. They are spread by direct head contact, which must be quite prolonged, or by sharing combs or headgear; children between the ages of six and seven are the most vulnerable. Most catch their lice at home, Dr Maunders says, from adults who are infected without even being aware of it.

Head lice live for about a month and in that time females produce up to 90 eggs, which cling tightly to the hair shaft. These white eggs are the "nits", which are often the first evidence of infection.

Lice can carry disease, though this is very unlikely in British conditions. Their presence often goes undetected for several weeks until an allergic reaction causes scratching. "If you have enough lice for long enough, you can feel lousy," Dr Maunders says. "Children at school who couldn't concentrate and fell behind because of lice used to be called nit-wits, shortened to twits. But most infections these days have trivial effects on health."

Claims of a new larger breed of louse are unsubstantiated. Lice are rather like dogs. They come in all different sizes," Dr Maunders says. They could be eradicated, given adequate organisation.

Some health districts have done much better than others. Dr Maunders singles out Northumberland as a good example. "The last survey they did, they found only about five cases in the entire county," he says.

Hard-to-spot pest is no respecter of social status

Nurses who remain unmoved as guts are unravelled before them sometimes turn pale when asked to look under a microscope at a louse picked off their patient's skin or scalp.

The idea of someone harbouring creeping, crawling parasites is unpleasant, but head lice are a problem shared by all classes — whether the host is at Eton or at the toughest comprehensive in London's East End. A louse simply needs blood to survive, and it knows that blue blood is just as nutritious as any other.

Regular combing of the

hair and frequent hair washing helps, but will not necessarily keep lice at bay. Sharing combs and brushes, be it at a primary school or a smart London club, is hazardous and they should be washed frequently in very hot water to remove eggs sticking to the bristles and teeth.

Lice, small insects that live on and feed off the scalp, are not easy to find as they are well camouflaged. But the eggs — the nits — attached to hairs close to the scalp are more easily spotted. Children are more easily infected than women, and women more easily than men.

An application of an appro-



MEDICAL BRIEFING

propriate lotion should soon rid the family of their unwelcome guests. The usual regime is to apply the lotion to the head and to leave it on for at least 12 hours before washing the hair and combing it with a fine-tooth comb, so as to remove dead lice and the nits. Shampoos are often considered an easier and more pleasant way of treating the lice, but in this form the insecticide may be

too dilute to be effective. The removal of carbaryl from the doctor's and the school nurse's armoury of drugs against lice is no more than an inconvenience. Other well-known insecticides — malathion, lindane, permethrin and phenothrin — are available.

Lindane, which has also been the subject of scares in the past, is now used less often

because lice are becoming resistant to it. It is the basis of such well-known remedies as Quedala.

Malathion is not recommended for asthmatics or for very small children. Permethrin, marketed under the name of Lyclear, can be used from two months onwards and phenothrin, trade name Full Marks, is also for use on small children.

The secret of dealing with outbreaks of lice has been to ring the changes on the remedies and to make certain that all children in a particular area are using the same treatment. The

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Golf ball hoarder is cleared

A golfer won a year-long court battle yesterday to keep more than 750 golf balls that he had hoarded in his bedroom. David Hughes, 25, of Buckley, Chwyd, was cleared of stealing the balls from a river and three lakes on the Padeswood and Buckley golf course. Police seized the balls, worth more than £1,000, after golf club officials complained about trespassers. Magistrates at Mold ordered police to give them back.

Piper Alpha case

William Hegarty, 43, a painter, of Alexandria, Strathclyde, who had to watch helplessly as the Piper Alpha oil platform was destroyed, killing 167 men, has begun a High Court action to win compensation for psychiatric damage.

Police chief fined

A police superintendent who was reported for drink-driving by a woman constable has been fined £1,300 and banned for 16 months by Aldershot magistrates. Dennis Luty, 55, of Basset, Southampton, is to appeal.

New audit head

The new chairman of the Audit Commission is to be Roger Brooke, 64, an investment financier. On December 1 he will replace Sir David Cooksey, 55, who retired from the post in August after five years.

Higgins fined

Alex Higgins, the snooker player, was fined £150 yesterday after he was found guilty of being drunk and disorderly. Magistrates in Northwich, Cheshire, were told that Higgins, 46, swore at police after a charity golf match.

Fake exposed

Magistrates adjourned sentence on a law student who photocopied postage stamps and used the fakes. Ziaur Rahman, 25, of Nottingham, admitted three charges of attempting to obtain postal services by deception.

Pools firm wins claim to be millionaire's best bet

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

ADVERTISING watchdogs ruled yesterday that people have a better chance of becoming a millionaire by playing the football pools than the National Lottery.

The Advertising Standards Authority said that the pools firm Littlewoods had been right to claim in a national press and poster campaign that the odds of winning its pools were better than those of winning the National Lottery.

The poster advertisement was headlined "Millionaire's row" and claimed: "Just 60p a go. Your best chance to win millions." A separate press

advertisement headed, "Littlewoods... your best chance of becoming a millionaire", quoted an article in a national newspaper giving odds of 15 million to one for the lottery and six million to one for Littlewoods pools.

The advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi, acting on behalf of Camelot, the lottery organiser, challenged both claims. The authority ruled, however, that at the time the advertisement appeared last spring the potential Littlewoods top prize was £2.6 million and the odds quoted were therefore correct. It also

upheld the company's claim that it offered the best chance to win millions of pounds.

The ruling is the latest round in a bitter battle between Camelot and pools firms. Pools takings at Littlewoods have dropped 20 per cent since the launch of the lottery draw.

In a separate ruling the authority upheld a complaint from The Telegraph plc, owner of The Daily Telegraph, about an advertisement from Times Newspapers Ltd, publisher of The Times, for making misleading comparisons of readership.

THE ANTON MOSIMANN 1996 JERSEY CALENDAR

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taste as wonderful as his, always choose vegetables from Jersey.

Anton's colourful recipe calendar is 42x15cm, with delicious dishes based on broccoli, cauliflower, courgettes, tomatoes, peppers, parsley and, of course, Jersey Royal new potatoes. There's room to write daily reminders. A useful present for yourself — and your friends.



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صلى الله عليه وسلم

Witnesses reveal their private conversations with husband held over death of girls

West promised wife he would lie to save her, court is told

By Bill Frost and Richard Duce

ROSEMARY WEST agreed a pact with her husband that he would take the blame for their crimes while she remained silent for ever, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Janet Leach, appointed to sit in as a lay observer on interviews between detectives and Frederick West, said he told her privately that his wife had told him "where all the bodies were".

Mrs Leach, whose collapse yesterday afternoon halted the trial of Mrs West, said West had described the victims recovered from 25 Cromwell Street as "some of Rose's mistakes". She went on: "He said it was sexual and wasn't meant to happen."

Mrs Leach, 39, also told the court that West had said fingers were removed from the bodies to hamper police attempts to identify them.

As a lay observer who would normally be called to witness police interviews with minors or the mentally ill, she had been called to Gloucester police station soon after West's arrest. Mrs Leach, a mother of five, saw him privately in his cell as a "friend" and sat in on almost 80 interviews between late February and early May 1994. The following month she suffered a stroke, she said.

"What he was saying was that, in the interviews with police, he wasn't telling the truth. He was protecting Rosemary. When he was arrested, he wanted to know if Rosemary had been let out. He said there was a pact between them and that he would take the blame for everything and would sort it all out."

"Once the interviews began, he said he was going to talk a load of nonsense. He just said that he and Rose had made a pact and that she would never

say anything." When West, 53, learnt that his wife had been arrested, he became "upset". Clearly under strain, Mrs Leach continued: "He just said the police were getting too involved." Mrs West denies murdering nine girls and a young woman.

Asked what West had revealed of the couple's sex life, Mrs Leach replied: "He said that he wasn't very good at sex and she was more demanding. He said he knew about her men but was quite surprised about lesbian activities."

Mrs Leach told the court that West would ask if what he said "shocked" her. "I was just devastated but I didn't want him to know how upset I was about the things he was disclosing."

She had not told police of her private conversations with West until after he had been found hanged at Winson Green Prison in Birmingham last New Year's Day. Mrs Leach had felt under a duty of confidentiality. West had told her that he would tell everybody the truth when he came to trial.

Called by the Crown to give evidence in rebuttal to taped interviews with West played to the trial last Friday, Mrs Leach described how he would frequently change facts during their conversations. Once he told her that he was in prison when his stepdaughter Charmaine disappeared. Subsequently he admitted the child's murder and that of her mother, Rena Costello — his first wife.

There were sharply differing stories about Heather, the daughter whose body was the first to be recovered from the back garden at Cromwell Street. West said that he had argued with his daughter and his wife had given her money

to go away with a lesbian. Subsequently he was to say that Mrs West and "someone else" had killed the girl after an argument. It had been "an accident".

West also claimed to Mrs Leach that a brother was involved in picking up girls from bus stops and taking them back to Cromwell Street. He accused Mrs West of murdering Shirley Robinson, a lodger whose body was found with the remains of her unborn child.

Mrs Leach last spoke to Frederick West in December 1994 — a fortnight before his death. "He was fine and talking about his new solicitor and new barrister. He was really pleased and was going to get things sorted out and was looking forward to the new year."

The trial continues.



Janet Leach yesterday: appointed as lay observer

'Rose was burying victims in cellar'

FREDERICK WEST told a prison doctor that his wife was to blame for the deaths of young women at their home. The jury was told. Dr James McMaster, a medical officer at the prison where West was on remand, said: "He claimed his wife was burying people without his knowledge."

Dr McMaster, a psychiatrist, said he had regular dealings with West. He spoke to him in August last year after reports that he had asked his family to make his funeral arrangements.

Dr McMaster formed the view West was living from "day to day" but did not appear suicidal and protested his innocence. "He claimed he'd been telling lies to the police and not telling them who he suspected was involved. He felt his wife was responsible for restraining their daughters while they were raped and responsible for the family's debts. He said his wife was running a brothel from his house. He claimed he was protecting her and was prepared to go to jail for life. "He said his wife had tried

to murder him by stabbing him with a knife. He felt his brother was involved although he didn't name his brother."

Dr McMaster, who was called by the prosecution to rebut West's taped interviews with police in which he tried to exonerate his wife, said: "He claimed his wife enjoyed cruelty and abused their daughters with sex toys. He also said that one of his daughters, Heather, helped to dig a hole in their back garden. He said it was her own grave but at the time she thought it was a paddling pool."

Dr McMaster said West claimed he was unaware of bodies being buried beneath their home. West told him he came home after a few days away to find the cellar had been dug over and was then persuaded by his wife to lay a concrete floor.

Detective Constable Steven Harris said that West, towards the end of interviews, claimed he was protecting someone but was too scared to say who.

ON SATURDAY



French interviewer: 'The French have not made up their minds about the Beatles. What do you think of them?' John: 'Oh, we like the Beatles. They're gear.'

The Beatles revisited — and your chance to own three of their platinum discs — in a collector's issue of the MAGAZINE



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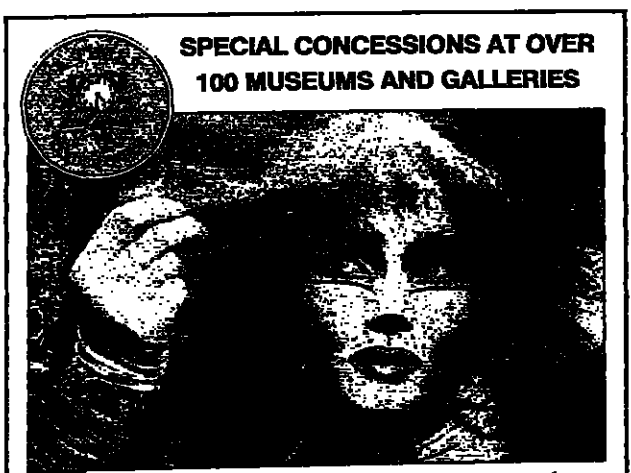
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Two notes written by Frederick West and discovered in his cell on New Year's Day, when he was found dead, were read to the jury. Both were addressed to Rosemary West. The first read:

"To Rose West, Stephen Mae and Mo. "Well Rose, it's your birthday November 29, 1994 and you will be 41 and still beautiful, and still love me, and I love you. We will always be in love. The most wonderful thing in my life is that I met you. How our love was special to us. "So love, keep your promises to me, you know what they are. "Where you and I will be together for ever and ever. It's up to you. Lay Heather by us, we loved Heather. It would be lovely for Heather and Charmaine to be with Rena. Well Rose you will be Mrs West all over the world. That's wonderful for me and you. I have not got you a present but all I have is my life I will give it to you my darling when you are ready to come to me I will be waiting for you."

The jury was told that, at the end of the note, there was a drawing of a gravestone with the caption "In loving memory, Fred West and Rose West. Rest in peace where no shadow falls in perfect peace he waits for Rose his wife."

The second note read: "To Rose West "Happy New Year darling. All my love, Fred West. To my love, for ever and ever."



Free guide

The Times, in association with Barclays Premier, the gold charge card from Barclays, offers readers a four-month celebration of art, history, science and industry with a beautifully illustrated Museums and Galleries Passport Guide. You will have an opportunity to visit over 100 museums and galleries offering special concessions ranging from reduced entry prices to free posters and discounts on purchases in museum shops. The offer is valid until the end of March. The free guide gives brief descriptions of each museum and gallery, including the Theatre Museum, London (above), permanent exhibitions, the concessions available and some future programmes. More programming details and concessions will appear in a regular special events column each Saturday in the Weekend section, starting November 18.

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Defence chiefs are 'too sceptical'

MPs seek action on Gulf War Syndrome

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MPs CRITICISED the Ministry of Defence yesterday for failing to take Gulf War Syndrome more seriously and demanded an independent health study of veterans.

After a lengthy investigation, the all-party Commons Defence Committee said it was appalled at the ministry's reluctance to undertake an epidemiological study, which could establish whether illnesses suffered by hundreds of veterans were statistically significant compared with military personnel who did not fight in the 1991 war.

The committee's unanimous report said that the ministry's response had been "characterised throughout by scepticism, defensiveness and general torpor".

Michael Colvin, Conservative chairman of the committee, and other members admitted they were sceptical themselves initially, but had been won over by personal testimony of those who had

suffered from a range of illnesses. So far 350 have been examined by the ministry.

Mr Colvin said the investigation did not "prove or disprove" that troops were ill because of the war, but it showed that the ministry's initial response — employing one physician two days a week to examine veterans — was "hopelessly inadequate".

The committee went to America, where thousands of veterans claim to be suffering from the same unexplained symptoms, including chronic fatigue, muscle weakness, sleeplessness, skin problems and headaches. The American authorities had begun a survey involving 30,000 serving personnel, veterans and civilians.

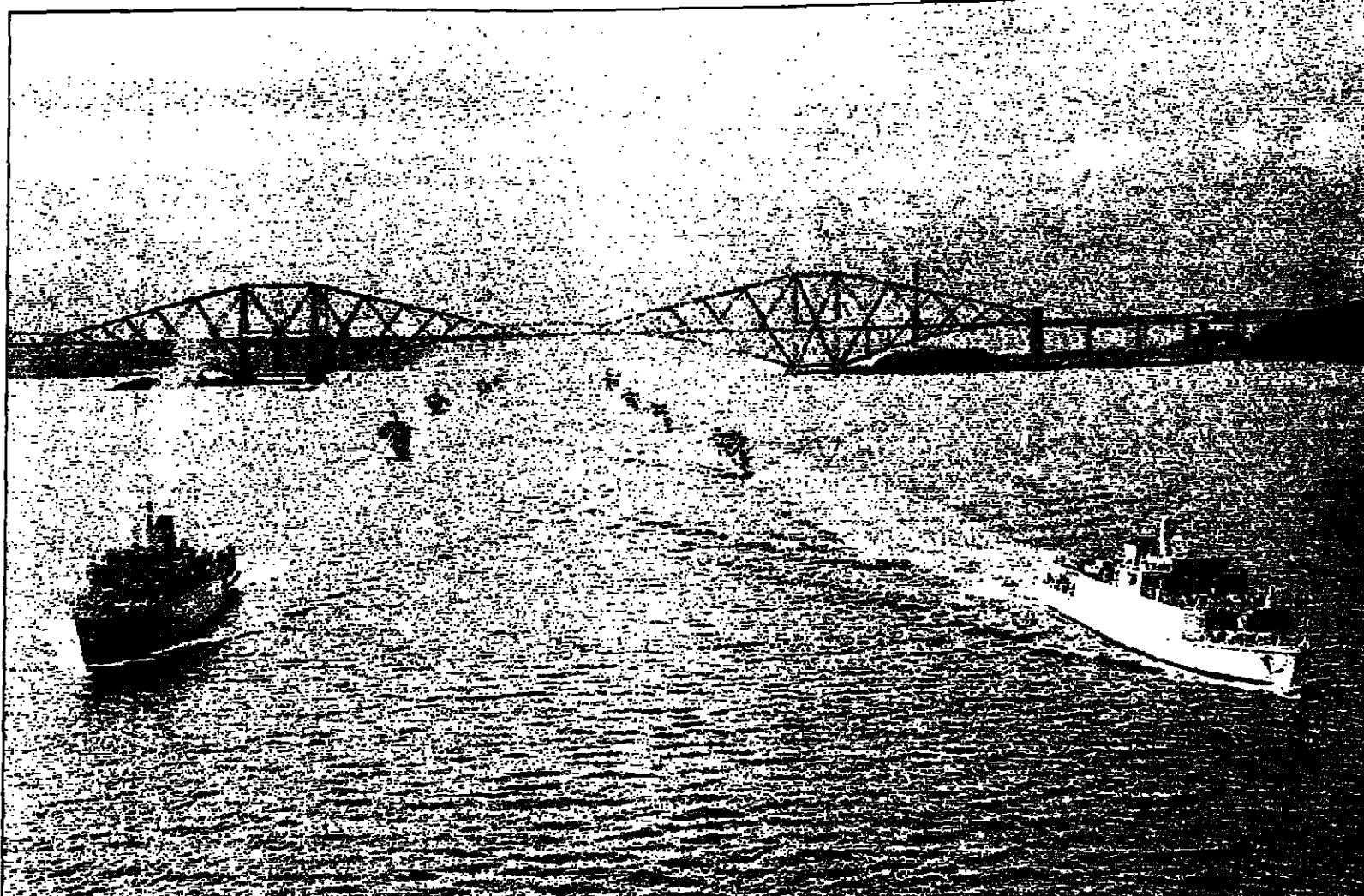
The MPs called for a similar British study by an independent body, and an investigation by Porton Down, the chemical defence research establishment in Wiltshire, into the short and long-term effects

of drugs and tablets given to troops to counter the threat posed by Iraq's chemical and biological warfare capability. This "cocktail" of drugs could have caused the subsequent illnesses, said the report.

The ministry said there were no plans for a full epidemiological study, although it will ask experts in tropical diseases, toxicology and immunology to review work on those veterans that have come forward for medical examination. Paediatricians will be consulted over claims of birth defects.

Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, criticised the MPs' report as "unhelpful and disappointing". He said: "Everything possible that can be done has been done and will be done. We retain an open mind on this issue and we are certainly not complacent."

□ *Gulf War Syndrome*, Defence Committee Eleventh Report (HMSO: £19.90)



Royal Navy ships sailing in line ahead out of Rosyth. The base, which has played a vital role in naval history, is to be redeveloped privately

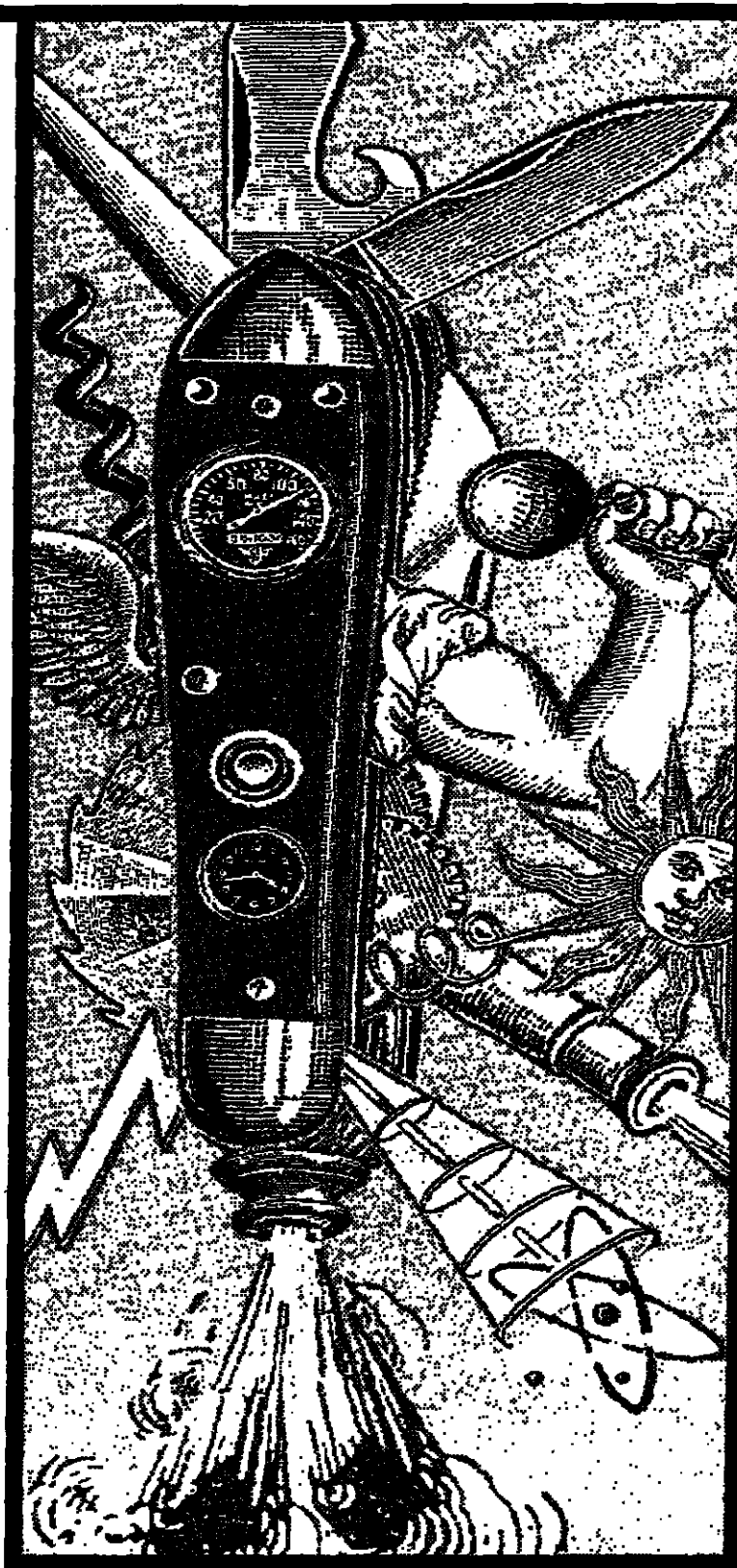
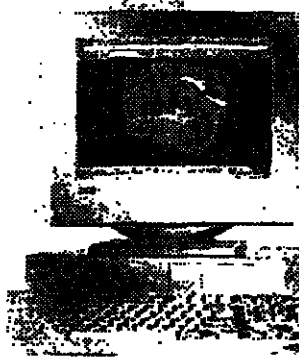
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Navy waives gun salute to Rosyth base

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ROSYTH took its place in naval history yesterday when the final ships left the Royal Navy base in Fife. Fourteen minesweepers and fisheries protection vessels sailed in line ahead into the Firth of Forth, but a 15-gun salute had to be cancelled because of technical problems.

Several hundred people lined the dockyard as the ships made their way towards the Forth road and rail bridges. Bands of the Royal Marines Scotland and the Ministry of Defence Police played *Rod Stewart's Sailing*. The ships left for Faslane on the Clyde and Portsmouth.

Many of those watching were families of the crew on board. Others were civilian workers at the dockyard. Most of the 1,000-strong workforce will leave the base this week although the Royal Navy does not relinquish control until March.

The base has been bought by the Rosyth 2000 consortium, which has promised to create up to 5,000 jobs and invest £100 million in the region. The consortium includes the Bank of Scotland, Scottish Power, Forth Ports, Fife Regional Council and Babcock International, which runs the adjacent commercial dockyard.

Rosyth was developed as a naval base at the turn of the century in response to alarm at the growth in the German High Seas Fleet. In 1903 the

Government bought 1,200 acres, including Rosyth Castle, from the Marquess of Linlithgow at Rosyth.

Building the deep water basin, entrance lock, dry docks and ancillary buildings was a huge enterprise with 550 acres being reclaimed from the sea. The work was not completed until 1915.

The first ship to enter for repair was *HMS Zealandia* in March 1916. Three months later the first ships of the Grand Fleet were towed in for repair after the Battle of Jutland. During the First World War it handled almost 200 ships including 78 battleships and battle cruisers.

The base was closed temporarily during the Depression but over the past 50 years Rosyth has been called on in every big conflict including Suez, the Korean War, the Falklands and the Gulf War.

Yesterday Vice-Admiral Christopher Morgan, Flag Officer for Scotland and Northern Ireland, saluted the 14 ships from his station aboard *HMS Bicester*, which had steamed from Portsmouth for the occasion. Unveiling a plaque to the civilian and uniformed workforce, he said it was a day of "great sadness and nostalgia".

"We have a yard which has supported ships over eight decades and that support would not have been possible without a skilled, loyal and dedicated workforce."

Father of Child B denies deception

THE father of Jaymee Bowen, the cancer victim originally known as Child B, has been sent for trial on deception charges over housing benefit claims.

David Bowen, 32, whose 11-year-old daughter was refused a second NHS bone marrow transplant before an anonymous benefactor paid for her £75,000 treatment, denies the allegations. The charges against Mr Bowen, a property consultant, will be heard at Bury St Edmunds Crown Court next year.

Mr Bowen was committed with two co-defendants by a judge at Ipswich Crown Court, who agreed to postpone the start of the trial after a private hearing.

Earlier this year Mr Bowen lost a High Court battle to force the Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Authority to continue to treat his daughter, whose plight became the subject of national debate. Last month a ban on identifying her was lifted, enabling her family to sell its story to raise more funds for her leukaemia treatment.

Mr Bowen is planning to sue the health authority over his daughter's original care. Jaymee's consultant now estimates that her chances of a prolonged remission or cure have improved from less than 10 per cent when experimental treatment was refused to nearly 30 per cent.

Airline pilot flew low 'to wave at his wife'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PILOT has been grounded amid claims that he flew a charter aircraft low over his house to "buzz" his wife on her birthday. The flyer, between 1,500ft and 2,000ft by the Ibiza-bound plane prompted scores of calls to Manchester airport from people in Congleton, Cheshire, who thought it was in trouble.

Congleton is 12 miles from the end of the Manchester runway and the normal flight level over the town is 4,000ft. The Britannia Airways jet, which was not carrying passengers, had been cleared by air traffic control to fly over at half that height.

The incident prompted a demand for an inquiry into air traffic control procedures. Jeff Gazzard, of Manchester Airport Environmental Network, said: "The pilot had asked to fly at 2,000ft so he could wave to his wife. Air traffic controllers are the policemen of the skies and should not have allowed this. There should be an immediate inquiry."

Britannia said that the captain and co-pilot of the Boeing 767 had been suspended for carrying out a "non-standard" manoeuvre on October 30. An internal inquiry is under way.

The Civil Aviation Authority said: "The minimum height over this area would be 1,500ft and that was about the height the plane was at."

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Political lobbyists turn away from discredited MPs

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE stature of MPs in the commercial world has been so badly damaged by the cash-for-questions affair that most political lobbyists have already severed their links with them.

Payments to MPs, or members of MPs' families, have been banned by the Association of Professional Political Consultants, which includes the big five companies.

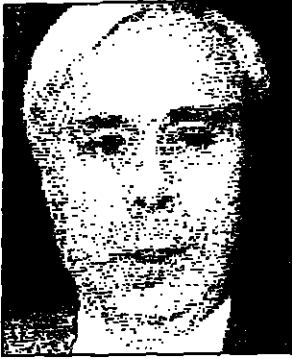
David Mellor is one of the first high-profile casualties of the Nolan inquiry. Last week Shandwick Consultants, the public affairs arm of a company run by Peter Gummer, brother of John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, dispensed with his services.

Tom McNally, Shandwick's public affairs director, said: "It was a mutual decision to coincide with the vote on Monday. The arrangement was frankly no longer worth the candle. Neither Shandwick nor David Mellor wants to be dragged into all this controversy about cash-for-questions and MPs' consultancies. It's just not worth it."

Mr McNally, who was political secretary to James Callaghan when he was Prime Minister, said: "There was a time when clients believed that having an MP on the books gave them street credibility. But that is not the case anymore. We no longer have an MP on our books. There is no longer any point."

Lord Parkinson, former Tory party chairman, is winding up Task Force Communications, which he chairs, because Gerald Howard, the prospective Tory candidate for Aldershot, is a director. Mr Howard said: "There is no point in trying to build up a client base if I am going to have to quit when I become an MP. Nolan has destroyed a thriving company."

Michael Burrell, managing director of Westminster Strategy, one of the biggest lobbyists, said: "You will find that far fewer lobbying consultancies in future will see any value in employing MPs. Companies who are the clients of consultancies will question whether they are getting any



Greer: says lobbyists do not need MPs

THE PERSUADERS

value out of their consultancy employing an MP now that the MP is not allowed to put down questions or table early day motions."

He argued that the reforms voted for on Monday were inadequate. Westminster Strategy has never employed MPs, and he says that other lobbying firms should not employ them either. "Nolan recommended a complete ban on lobbying companies employing MPs. I wish Parliament had voted for that. Lobbying consultancies will still be able to employ MPs to give advice. That is a pity."

Ian Greer, the Shadow Leader of the Commons, has resigned her non-executive directorship of Westminster Communications. Mrs Taylor, who argued in the Commons debate on Monday that MPs should accept disclosure if they had nothing to hide, did not reveal her fee.

Richard Faulkner, managing director of Westminster Communications, said that MPs were no longer the asset they used to be. The decision to end arrangements with MPs such as Mrs Taylor had been taken for commercial reasons.

Simon Jenkins, page 16
Leading article, page 17

lobbyists. Mr Greer, an architect of the self-regulatory association of lobbyists which drew up the no-MPs rule, said: "The importance of the Nolan report on lobbyists has been greatly exaggerated. I would say 95 per cent of lobbyists have no financial connection whatsoever with MPs. If they did, they have ended them."

The prime source of MPs' additional income has been as advisers to commercial companies and professional and trade associations. These are wholly distinct from professional lobbying companies. They will now review their relationships with MPs. Full disclosure will lift the veil on lobbying and demonstrate that they have got, and don't need, the services of MPs."

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Simon Jenkins, page 16
Leading article, page 17



DISCLOSURE OF EARNINGS: WHAT IT MEANS FOR LABOUR AND FOR

Michael Connarty is one of Labour's biggest "earners". Most MPs who are sponsored by trade unions receive an average of about £600 a year plus election expenses. But Mr Connarty, MP for Falkirk East, gets £8,000 a year from the Union of Communication Workers, all of which is paid directly to his Scottish constituency. The amount is disclosed in the Register of Members' Interests and no extra election payments are made.

The payment is an historic one, given to his predecessor, the Labour MP Harry Ewing, who was a post office worker. It goes towards paying the salary of a member of staff in the constituency office and towards the funding of campaigns. None of it goes to Mr Connarty personally. He has occasional meetings with representatives of the union to advise them on Scottish matters or anything they have a particular interest in.

He has also tabled two early day motions and several questions relating to the Post Office, but in each case has declared his interest. One tabled last year expresses concern about post office closures and commands a day of action called by the union. He has been advised that he can table similar motions in the future but no reference should be made to the union concerned.

Nicholas Winterton has three directorships and is a paid parliamentary adviser to three other companies but is fighting pressure to declare the money he receives from all of them.

Mr Winterton, the Conservative MP for Macclesfield, says that he will abide by any rules laid down by the Parliamentary Commissioner and will disclose fees from the two jobs which he thought were relevant to his parliamentary work.

He is a director of the Government Relations Unit and a parliamentary adviser to the Construction Plant-hire Association. But he is not keen to give details of the fees he earns from his other work which he considers unrelated to his position as an MP. "Members are now no longer allowed to earn any money at all by advocating a cause in Parliament, and clearly, therefore, there is no income to be disclosed," he said.

Several other MPs with outside interests also say they are not prepared to disclose fees for work not directly related to the Commons. Some have said that they will have to look at how contracts could be changed so that the parliamentary element is removed or the contract split with only a minimal amount entered for parliamentary work.

Sir Michael Neubert, a former defence minister, has threatened to defy the new rules requiring disclosure of MPs' earnings. He says that they are "not the law of the land" and he cannot be forced to abide by them.

Sir Michael, MP for Romford, says that colleagues set a precedent for not following the Commons rules on disclosure when they refused to divulge details of their membership of Lloyd's insurance syndicates. He lists in the Register of Members' Interests his role as an adviser to the Federation of Master Builders and to the National Market Traders' Federation, and his membership of the advisory board to the cable telecommunications company Bell Cablemedia.

Although he is adamant that he will resist pressure from senior colleagues, the newly created Select Committee on Standards and Privileges—effectively the Commons court—will be given strengthened powers to deal with recalcitrant backbenchers. The new eleven-member cross-party committee will be able to hold its disciplinary hearings in public. It will retain the wide-ranging powers of the Privileges Committee to recommend that MPs be fined, suspended or even expelled from the Commons.

Tough new Commons regime will be felt immediately

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A STRICT new disciplinary regime will begin next week to expose MPs' financial affairs to the most detailed public scrutiny seen at Westminster.

The disclosure of outside earnings and the ban on paid advocacy will mean drastic changes to the income of MPs with wide business interests.

The first curbs will be seen when the Commons returns for the Queen's Speech on Wednesday. The ban on paid

advocacy will take effect immediately, preventing them from tabling questions, motions, or amendments to Bills and from introducing Bills on behalf of any client who pays them a fee.

MPs will be barred from entering any new contracts for paid advocacy but those already with contracts will have until March 31 next year to end them. MPs will be allowed to work as paid advisers, offering information about parliamentary procedures and other matters. Fees for

consultancy services directly related to Commons work is to be disclosed in bands of up to £1,000, £1,000-£5,000, then in bands of £5,000.

New contracts for advisory work must be submitted immediately for approval by the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. Established contracts for advisory work, or those that need to be amended to comply with the new rules, must be submitted by March 31.

MPs with paid interests will be prevented from initiating

debates on subjects directly related to their client, although they can take part in debates initiated by colleagues. An MP paid by, say, the Police Federation, representing rank-and-file policemen, would be able to contribute to a debate on law and order but probably not on police pay, because such a speech might bring "particular benefit" to the organisation making payment.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, will decide whether an MP's outside interests are a direct consequence of being in the Commons. For instance, an MP who writes or broadcasts directly because of his Commons position would be expected to declare his earnings, but a colleague who worked as a journalist before entering the Commons might not have to.

Sir Gordon will start work next week advising MPs on ethics, propriety and standards. He will receive initial complaints against MPs be-

fore referring them, if warranted, to the new Select Committee for Privileges and Standards.

He will administer the new code of conduct, based on recommendations from the Nolan inquiry, demanding that MPs follow the "seven principles of public life": showing selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, leadership and honesty.

The select committee will have powers to hear evidence in public, unless there are

potential legal difficulties. MPs facing allegations will be allowed to cross-examine witnesses making complaints.

Labour MPs whose constituencies receive financial support from a trade union are likely to be barred from advocating on the union's behalf if payments are arranged by or paid via the MP. MPs will not be able to arrange or attend ministerial deputations if their client is the only beneficiary. However, such visits will be allowed if wider issues are to be discussed.

However, such visits will be allowed if wider issues are to be discussed.

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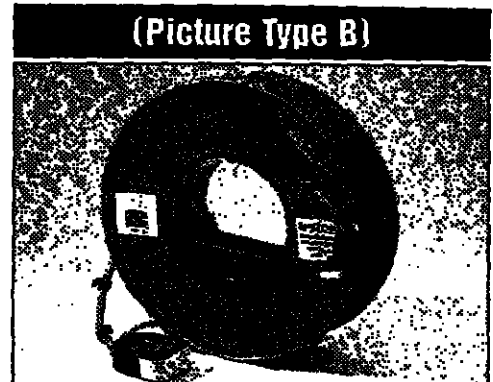
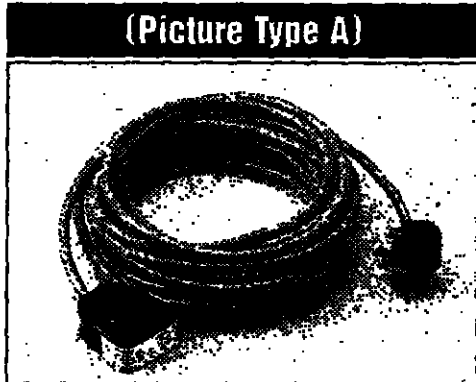
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Hockney accuses art school of dodging the draught

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

DAVID HOCKNEY, Britain's most celebrated living artist and an outstanding draughtsman, yesterday criticised art schools that do not teach drawing.

Speaking at the Royal Academy of Arts, where an exhibition of his drawings opens tomorrow, Hockney lamented that art schools were neglecting to teach students essential technical and craft skills. "It is sad when the colleges abandon the teaching of certain kinds of craft," he said.

His intervention reignited the row that has raged since the 1960s about whether craftsmanship is being sacrificed by art schools in pursuit of creativity.

Drawing, Hockney said, should tease the eye into really looking at the world around us. He recalled how from a very young age he was inspired by anything with a distinct drawn line, from Mickey Mouse to cartoons in newspapers.

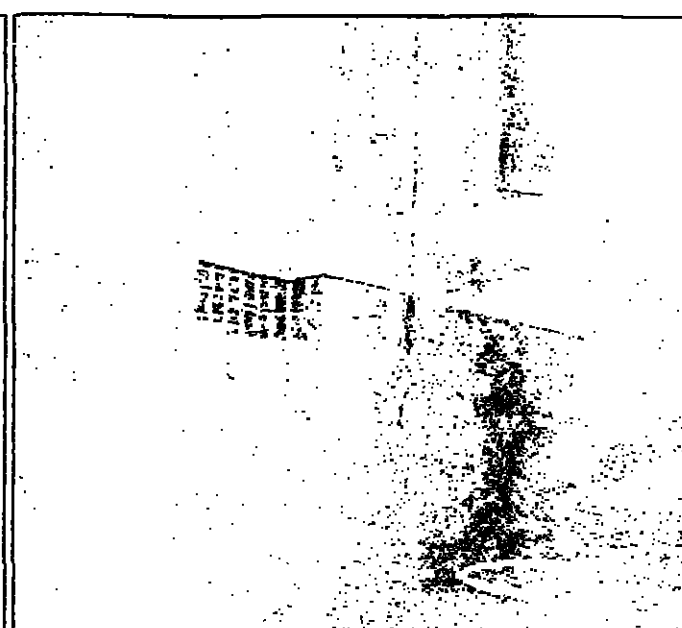
Mr Hockney learnt the rules before breaking them at Bradford College of Art and then the Royal College of Art.

The Royal Academy showed the first painting he exhibited, an image of Mount Street in Bradford, in 1957. The painting has since disappeared, but a pencil sketch for it will be in his latest show, among 176 images of portraits, landscapes, still lifes and stage designs.

Hockney said he hoped the exhibition would inspire people to put pen to paper, even if only as a hobby. As an



Displaying diversity, examples of Hockney's work on show at the Royal Academy of Arts from tomorrow: *Cased*, 1994, left; *Gregory*, 1978, centre; and *Study of Water*, Phoenix, Arizona, 1976



essay in the exhibition catalogue points out, drawing is the discipline that has informed Hockney's approach to every medium, from painting to faxes and photocopying. "Drawing was the intellectual discipline upon which all art was founded."

His attack on training was met with bemusement by art colleges. "What does he mean?" asked Nicholas De Ville, head of visual arts at Goldsmith's College, south-east London, whose graduates include Damien Hirst, the artist best-known for using dead animals. "I don't know that it's such a widespread phenomenon as some people make out. The problem is whether it is appropriate to put all the students

through the same batch of crafts-based programme and technical skills. All those things we still provide, but we allow the students to decide which of them are appropriate. It's a misconception that art schools don't provide these things anymore."

But he added: "The old pattern where they were expected to spend two years in the liferoom before doing anything else has been abandoned. And I think rightly. Not all students find drawing a way of making images."

Norman Rosenthal, exhibitions secretary of the RA, said that every line of Hockney's work revealed a "generosity of spirit and an enjoyment of life, whether he is looking at a glass or at his friends."

Show draws attention to vivid versatility

BY RICHARD CORK
CHIEF ART CRITIC

NO ARTIST could be more versatile than the deft, restless and unpredictable David Hockney. Even in his drawings, now assembled in profusion at a Royal Academy retrospective, the range of styles is astonishing.

At the Royal College of Art, as a star student in the early 1960s, Hockney seemed capable of anything. In one mood he spent a week making a careful study of a skeleton. His fellow student R.B. Kitaj admired it so much that he bought the drawing for £5. But Hockney was equally willing to produce wildly executed images. Gandhi became the subject of a crayon study called *Love*. Later Hockney's style became wittier,

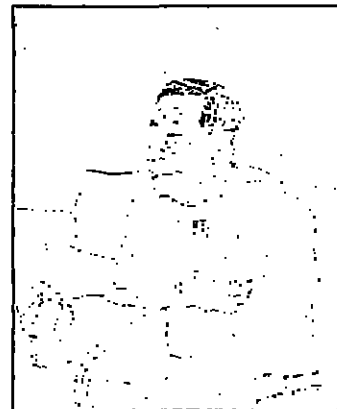
sexier and more precise. Nude men, usually showering, make a provocative entrance to the show.

Los Angeles produced an outpouring of brilliantly coloured studies. Fascinated by lawn sprinklers and swimming pools shimmering in the sun, Hockney defined the city in an unforgettable way. It was the opposite of everything he had grown up with in his native Bradford, and Los Angeles became his home.

The Royal Academy show proves that people enthral Hockney even more than places. Stephen Spender is the full-length subject of the most detailed pencil drawing, which displays a skill worthy of the Old Masters. But Hockney is wary of the academic trap. His most recent large drawings of family and friends show a new boldness and vigour.



The designer Ossie Clarke drawn in crayon in 1970



W.H. Auden's wrinkles etched in ink in 1968

Whitehall waste costs taxpayer £900m

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

POOR management of the Government's biggest construction projects is costing taxpayers up to £900 million each year, a Cabinet Office report disclosed yesterday.

Sir Peter Levene, the Prime Minister's personal adviser on efficiency, said that better management and supervision in Whitehall could save some 15 per cent of the £6 billion spent every year on building hospitals, courts, laboratories, military installations, prisons and roads. The

report criticised civil servants for dodging responsibility for decisions and their "obsession" with accepting the lowest bid for a project. A quarter of schemes suffered budget overruns because contracts were awarded on the basis of unrealistic forecasts and incomplete briefs.

The 20 projects studied, including the British Library, the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and the new Inland Revenue headquarters in Nottingham, showed an increase of £500 million or 24 per cent over their initial approved costs.

One department, which has not been identified, ran a project which "suffered from adversarial relationships, cost increases and significant delays and is now unlikely to deliver a building that matches the requirements of the business," the report said.

It recommends forcing senior civil servants to take personal responsibility in the future. Each government construction project with a budget of more than £1 million will have a named investment decision maker, a project owner and a project sponsor.

Housing benefit cuts 'a false economy'

BY IAN MURRAY

GOVERNMENT plans to cut housing benefits and change the rules for helping the homeless will save £170 million but could cost an extra £918 million, according to Shelter, the housing charity.

In a report today Shelter says that the changes will put an extra 80,000 private renting families into poverty. From the start of the new

year, each area will have a "local reference rent" for which housing benefit can be claimed. However, the reference rent may be less than the reasonable market rent for the area, but benefit will be paid on only half the difference between the two.

Shelter says that many families have been able to find accommodation only by paying more than even the going market rate. Cutting housing

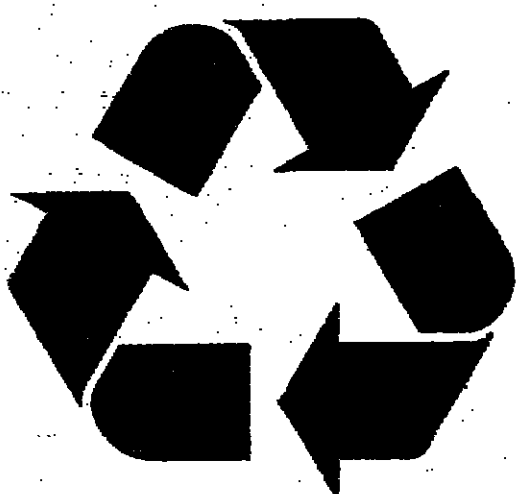
benefit will force them into poverty.

The charity says the problem will be exacerbated by proposals in the Housing White Paper to deny homeless households priority on housing lists. That will force them to accept temporary high-cost private accommodation.

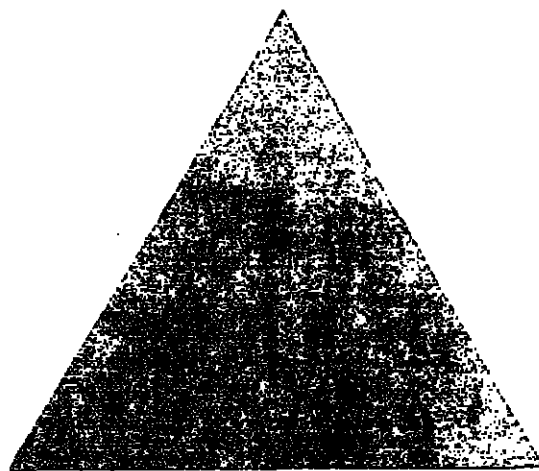
The cost of paying high rents for the homeless is estimated at £118 million a year. Housing benefits will

need to increase by £600 million to meet escalating private rents and a further £200 million could be needed in social security as low wage earners, unable to meet rising rents, drop out of work.

Chris Holmes, Shelter's director, said: "The fact is that homeless families denied priority for rehousing and forced into high-cost private lets, could well face recurring homelessness."



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Nigeria tops the agenda for heads of Commonwealth

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR flew out of Israel yesterday to Auckland, where he will arrive with other Commonwealth heads of government for a summit likely to be dominated by two themes: democracy in member countries and French nuclear tests.

The Prime Minister will give strong support to a Commonwealth proposal for graduated measures, culminating in sanctions and suspension of membership, against rogue states that flout the 1991 Harare declarations on democracy, human rights and good governance. Nigeria will be the focus of this Commonwealth initiative. Efforts will also be made to enforce a return to democracy in two other countries under military rule: Sierra Leone and The Gambia.

The Commonwealth, now comprising 52 members after the admission of Cameroon, is unlikely to press for Nigeria's suspension.

"There will be some who may want to condemn, there will be some who may want to exclude, but to exclude people from meetings means that you just lose all capacity to influence or have dialogue with them," Don McKinnon, the New Zealand Foreign Minister, said in a radio interview. He said it was better to have countries such as Nigeria "inside the tent and us talking to them", rather than outside and no one talking to anybody.

Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Develop-

ment Minister, who will attend the summit instead of Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, made clear last week that Britain will use the four-day meeting for straight talking to General Sani Abacha, the Nigerian military leader.

Lady Chalker also hopes that President Mandela of South Africa, which is attending the meeting for the first time in more than 30 years, will use his moral influence to press Nigeria and other African countries with authoritarian regimes to respond to calls for greater democracy. Thabo Mbeki, the first Deputy President, visited Abuja to urge General Abacha to spare the lives of condemned opponents, but South Africa is reluctant to press for sanctions.

Britain hopes that the combined pressure of other leaders will persuade General Abacha to release Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer sentenced to hang for alleged complicity in the murder of moderate leaders in Ogoniland. Britain also wants Nigeria to speed up the proposed three-year transition to democracy, which Lady Chalker said was "clearly too long".

South Pacific countries will insist on a motion condemning France for continuing underground nuclear tests on Mururoa atoll, and Mr Major will be criticised for his outspoken endorsement of President Chirac's policies. New Zealand and Australia have taken the lead in condemning France and calling for a trade boycott, but as host country New Zealand may wish to avoid embarrassing the Prime Minister.

Paul Keating, the Australian Prime Minister, who has been critical of his country's remaining constitutional links with Britain, may use the nuclear issue to press home sharp attacks on Britain and Mr Major in particular. He is not expected to seek a confrontation with the Queen at the summit, however. She has made clear that it is up to Australia to decide whether it wants to become a republic.

Commonwealth leaders will also discuss development policies and debt relief for the poorer nations. Of the 52 members, all but four classify themselves as developing countries.

Wellington: New Zealand's keenest anti-royalist made a trademark roadside protest yesterday with an air fresher can as the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh strolled round Ellerslie racecourse in Auckland (Michael Munro writes).

Sam Brancovan, who was fined £410 for lunging at the Prince of Wales with an aerosol can last year, made a protest, agreed with the police, as the royal motorcade travelled from Auckland airport to the city. He brandished a placard saying "bad smell is upon us".

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One of the three American servicemen accused of raping a 12-year-old schoolgirl is led into court in Naha City yesterday, hidden behind police shields. Two Marines have denied rape, but admitted two other charges

US sailor admits Okinawa rape

FROM PEREGRINE HODSON IN TOKYO

THE trial of three American servicemen accused of raping a 12-year-old girl opened yesterday in Naha City, Okinawa. Marcus Gill, 22, a Navy seaman, pleaded guilty to charges of rape, abduction and battery, but his two companions, Kendrick Ledet, 20, and Rodrico Harp, 21, both US Marines, denied the rape but admitted the other two charges.

The three men arrived at court, their faces hidden by police shields. They were led into the courtroom in handcuffs, which were removed once they were seated. According to the prosecution statement submitted to the three judges — Japan has no jury system — Mr Gill was the ringleader. The prosecution said

that at about 8pm on September 4 the accused drove to the village of Kin, near the prefectural capital of Naha, where they ambushed the girl who had been shopping. The men are alleged to have tied her up and covered her face with tape, before driving her to an isolated beach where, according to the prosecution, they took turns raping her.

The incident has provoked outrage in Okinawa, where resentment against the American presence culminated last month in a demonstration of more than 50,000 people calling for an apology and compensation for the victim and the scaling down of US bases.

The anger roused by the rape has been exploited to challenge the future of the

American military presence in Japan. While informed debate is long overdue, emotions have reached such a pitch that relations between the two countries are becoming critical. Much will depend on what happens in the trial, which is scheduled to last six weeks with a ruling by the end of the year. Japan's justice system attaches great importance to expressions of apology and remorse — the future of Japanese-American relations may be influenced by the demeanour of the three US servicemen.

Whatever the verdict, it is unlikely to diminish the Okinawans' determination to seek a fairer distribution of the American presence in Japan, of which 75 per cent is concentrated in the prefecture.

Peking in struggle over lama successor

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA and the Dalai Lama appeared to be locked in a fresh power struggle yesterday over choosing the successor to Tibet's second most senior monk.

Peking was insisting that it had the final say over identifying a young boy as the reincarnation of the late Panchen Lama. The issue is likely to cause deep concern within Tibet, especially after the disappearance of the Dalai Lama's candidate.

Foreign diplomats in Peking last night described as quaint and decidedly bizarre China's insistence on claiming that, while still an avowed Communist and atheist state, it knows more about arcane Buddhist practices for identifying the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama than does Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Yesterday China renewed its criticism of the Dalai Lama, who has lived in exile in northern India since he fled Tibet in 1959 after the crushing of an uprising against Chinese rule, over his naming last May of a six-year-old boy as the reincarnated Panchen Lama, who died in 1989 a few days after criticising China's harsh rule in Tibet.

The new attack comes after the Tibetan government-in-exile in India accused China last weekend of forcing 100 high Tibetan lamas to gather in Peking for a new selection process. Whether the Dalai Lama's candidate will be one of those in the lottery remains uncertain.

Nevertheless, the squabbling over this religious issue is likely to cause deep concern within Tibet itself, diplomats here said, especially after the mysterious disappearance of the Dalai Lama's candidate, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, to succeed the Panchen Lama, a sometimes controversial figure who some accused of being a stooge of Peking and others a man who worked for Tibet from within the Chinese system.

Whatever the case, the Panchen Lama was denounced and tortured by leftists during the Cultural Revolution. The disappearance of the respected Abbot of Tashilhunpo, Chadrel Rinpoche, who originally identified the discovery of the reincarnation after a search process throughout Tibet, is also causing concern. Apparently, he first divulged the information secretly, possibly by courier over the Himalayas, to the Dalai Lama.

He is believed to have been arrested in May and he was replaced at Tashilhunpo monastery in the Tibetan town of Xigaze in September.

Police tighten security around Mandela

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

SECURITY around President Mandela and members of his Cabinet has been strengthened as shockwaves triggered by the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, wash over South Africa.

In a statement yesterday, George Fivaz, the Police Commissioner, said he had ordered all police officers

responsible for the safety of Mr Mandela, Deputy Presidents Thabo Mbeki and F.W. de Klerk and Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, Home Affairs Minister and leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, to be placed on alert. He said that was not in response to any specific threat but that those responsible for security must avoid complacency and learn from the Israeli murder.

Mr Fivaz added: "We simply cannot afford to think we are immune to such lunacy. Parallels exist between the Israeli-Palestinian and South African political processes and it would be disastrous if especially the leaders of the major parties of the Government were harmed."

Still fresh in the minds of South Africans is the assassination in April 1993 of Chris Hani, the General Secretary of the South African Communist

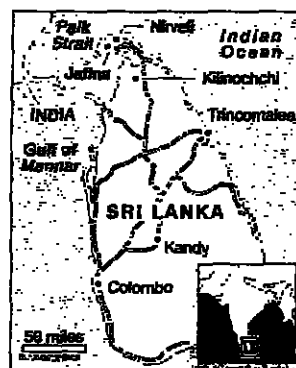
Party and at the time one of the most senior figures in the African National Congress. He was shot outside his home near Johannesburg by a right-wing Polish immigrant opposed to the emancipation of blacks. In the run-up to last year's national election, South Africa was gripped by a right-wing bombing campaign and the security stake-up comes amid renewed fears of extremist insurgency.

The Government's claim that there are only 100,000 refugees seems to be nonsense. S. Thillanandaram, the most senior government official in Kilinochchi district, south of Jaffna, said last night that more than 110,000 displaced Tamils had reached the area. They were crowded into schools, churches and temples. Tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands,

Leaflet airdrop in Jaffna aims to stem Tamil panic

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

THE Sri Lankan Government has begun dropping leaflets over the Jaffna peninsula to try to persuade hundreds of thousands of Tamil civilians that "this war is not against you". The campaign came as a sea of people moved through the countryside, soaked, homeless and hungry. They were still on their way. He described chaos on the shores of Jaffna lagoon as people clambered with their possessions on board 1,000 small boats for the two-hour trip to the mainland. Every day fewer boats were available be-



cause fuel was running out. Most of those fleeing had walked long distances in monsoon storms. Most had spent nights with friends and relatives, but many had slept in the rain.

Aid agencies, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, say there are 300,000 to 400,000 displaced people from intensified fighting since July. But everybody is guessing. Nobody even is sure about the population of the Jaffna peninsula, which was 830,000 when the last census was taken, in the 1980s.

The administrative and political headquarters in Jaffna town of the secessionist Tigers has collapsed. Denied taxation and other income, the rebels are desperate for money.

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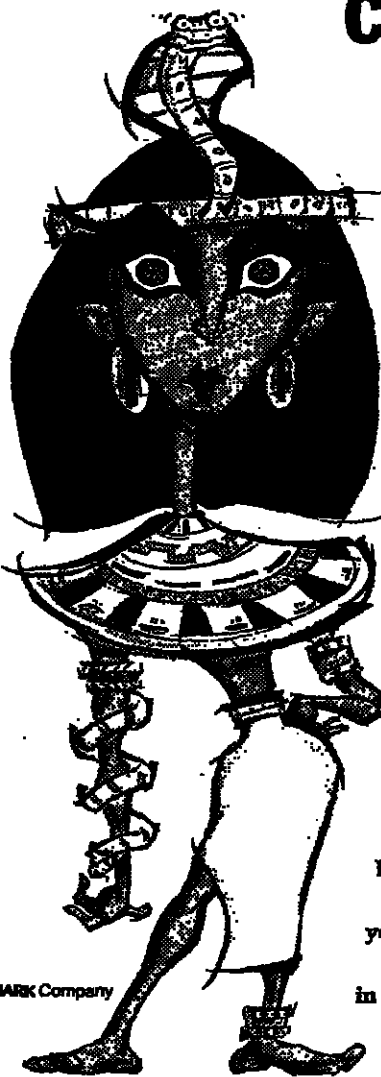
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D A T A S T R E A M
IN DEPTH · IN CONTEXT · INTERNATIONAL

Peking in struggle over lama successor

FROM JAMES PYNAL IN PEKING

CHINA and the Dalai Lama appeared to be locked in a fresh power struggle today over choosing the successor to Tibet's second senior monk.

Peking was insisting on having the final say over the reincarnation of the late Panchen Lama. The issue has caused deep concern in Tibet, especially after the disappearance of the late lama's candidate.

Foreign diplomats in Beijing last night described China's insistence on deciding the successor as an "unusually Communist and authoritarian" move. Buddhist monks are identifying the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, but does Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Yesterday China renewed criticism of the Dalai Lama, who has lived in northern India since fleeing Tibet in 1959 after crushing of an anti-Chinese rule. Last May of a 14-year-old boy as the reincarnated Panchen Lama, died in 1989 a few days after China's last in Tibet.

The new attack comes after the Tibetan government in exile in India accused China last weekend of forcing Tibetan lamas to sign a new agreement. Whether the Dalai Lama's candidate will be chosen in the lottery is uncertain.

Nonetheless, the struggle over the religious issue is seen as a key to the future of Tibet. Some Tibetans say they will not accept a successor chosen by the Chinese government. Others say they will accept a successor chosen by the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama's candidate was chosen by a lottery in 1989, but the Chinese government refused to accept it. The Dalai Lama's candidate was chosen by a lottery in 1989, but the Chinese government refused to accept it.

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Juppé reshuffles Cabinet before tackling reforms

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, ordered a surprise Cabinet reshuffle yesterday as President Chirac sought to breathe fresh vigour into his flagging presidency and pave the way for painful economic reforms.

After just six months in office, M Juppé formally tendered the resignation of his Government yesterday morning. M Chirac immediately reappointed M Juppé to oversee the creation of a new Cabinet, more clearly committed to reducing the budget deficit.

None of the top ministers had to lose a post, although the Health Minister, Elisabeth Hubert, and Colette Codacci, the Minister for Solidarity between the Generations, were both dismissed. Their jobs were incorporated into a new "super-ministry" for social affairs under the Labour Minister, Jacques Barrot, who will oversee the reform of the welfare system.

The Cabinet, including 12 women, was reduced from 41 to 32, with four new arrivals and 13 departures, among them eight women.

The new streamlined Government underlines M Chirac's determination to reduce spending, reinforce the franc and ensure that France can meet the economic criteria for European monetary union. The franc gained ground yesterday and the bond and stock markets reacted positively.

The Government includes several supporters of Edouard Balladur, the former Prime Minister and M Chirac's erstwhile presidential rival.

During his election campaign, M Chirac promised to create new jobs, cut taxes and mend France's tattered social fabric, but in a television interview on October 26 he moved away from those pledges in favour of a more rigorous austerity drive. Reducing the budget deficit, now more than 5 per cent of GDP, was the "priority of priorities", M Chirac said.

In his six months in office, the Juppé Government has faced steadily dwindling opinion polls, strikes, a wave of terrorist attacks, corruption

Cutting the budget deficit, more than 5 per cent of GDP, is the priority of priorities

allegations and growing concern over the economy.

A new poll published today in *Le Parisien* provides the first sign that the tide may be turning in the Government's favour. President Chirac's popularity jumped by ten points to 42 per cent, the poll found. Yesterday's reshuffle was a bid to stop the slide, and prove to both financial markets and the French public that budget deficit reduction will go ahead, particularly in welfare reform.

Next week M Juppé will present proposals for overhauling the unwieldy welfare

system. Unions have called another strike for November 14 to protest at expected cuts in welfare.

M Juppé's first Cabinet was criticised as bulky, ill-defined and inexperienced. The new Cabinet, already nicknamed Juppé II, will forge "a more effective team", a government source said.

Rumours of a reshuffle have been building since mid-October, but most political observers predicted the President would wait until the new year, when budget discussions would be over, before making any radical changes.

The franc dropped sharply last month amid rumours that M Juppé might be forced to resign by a housing scandal, but without a credible alternative M Chirac decided to change his Cabinet rather than his Prime Minister.

Opponents claimed the reshuffle only underlined the Gaullist Government's fragility. "To my knowledge we have never seen a Government implode in this way, six months after it was created," Laurent Fabius, the former Socialist Prime Minister, said. M Chirac was welcomed in Continental capitals yesterday as proof that M Chirac was serious about shoring up monetary union (Charles Bremner writes).

The shake-up had been widely expected after M Chirac's apparent conversion to the merits of monetary rigour, pronounced on October 26, the day after a meeting with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

Leading article, page 17



The first Cabinet of Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, pictured on May 20 at the Elysée Palace with President Chirac, fell victim to falling popularity polls. His new-look Cabinet is reduced from 41 to 32, with four new arrivals and 13 departures. Among the departures were eight women.

De Gaulle's glory gives no lustre to Chirac

BY BEN MACINTYRE

TWENTY-FIVE years after the death of General de Gaulle, hundreds of French soldiers will parade tomorrow before President Chirac, the self-proclaimed political heir to France's greatest 20th-century leader.

M Chirac will milk the occasion for every drop of reflected glory, but the comparison with his illustrious predecessor is hardly comfortable. This week French newspapers, magazines, television programmes and historians lavished praise on de Gaulle, recalling his wartime record, his postwar leadership and his haughty but majestic personality.

Battered by the lowest popularity ratings in recent French history, M Chirac may well be wondering tomorrow what went wrong.

One of his first acts on becoming the first Gaullist to occupy the Elysée for

21 years was to pay homage at the grave of "the commander", and in *Paris Match* this week, he penned a eulogy to de Gaulle. "Rarely in the past has a man or woman so embodied our country, its destiny, its aspirations, its calling, its culture." However, M Chirac has laid himself open to attack from those who insist that he is no De Gaulle. "The weight of the commander bears down on the Elysée, Chirac has to withstand an intolerable comparison," the *Evenement de Jeudi* said.

Others have suggested that De Gaulle would have been appalled at the current state of France. "Rampant corruption, weakening political will, government prostration before corporatism, the country's mounting ungovernability are among the features that would have shocked the founder of the Fifth Republic," thundered political analyst Olivier

Duhamel in this week's *L'Express* magazine.

M Chirac sought to prove his Gaullist bona fides soon after his election by boldly announcing the resumption of nuclear testing. When this was met with international condemnation, the President initially stood his ground but later cut back the number of tests.

M Chirac's enemies insist that a Gaullist search for "la gloire" is inappropriate to modern France, but some supporters grumble that the President's problems spring from a failure to behave more like his mentor.

Both with the resumption of nuclear testing and his aborted meeting with President Zeruou of Algeria, M Chirac gave advance warning of his plans, providing his enemies with ample time to mobilise. The general would simply have pressed the button, and then announced the fact.



De Gaulle: President Chirac is keen to match his mentor

NEWS IN BRIEF

War crimes tribunal attacks US

Washington: The chief prosecutor at a United Nations international war crimes tribunal has criticised American delays in divulging intelligence information needed to build criminal cases against those suspected of committing atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Tom Rhodes writes).

In a letter to the US Embassy in The Hague, Judge Richard Goldstone calls the "quality and timeliness" of information "disappointing". Christian Charrier, for the tribunal, would not comment on speculation that information may have been withheld by America deliberately.

Polish winners

Warsaw: President Walesa and Aleksander Kwasniewski, the former Communist, are through to the second round of the Polish presidential elections on November 19, the poll commission said. (Reuters)

Lubbers setback

Washington: The Clinton Administration is reconsidering its support for Ruud Lubbers, the former Dutch Prime Minister, to succeed Willy Claes as Nato's next Secretary-General, sources said.

On the move

Addis Ababa: About 100 million people are refugees, displaced or migrants constantly moving across international borders, the World Council of Churches told a five-day conference. (AP)

Italy moves to lift ban on heirs of Savoy monarchy

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE flamboyant heir to the Italian throne, Prince Vittorio Emanuele, celebrated yesterday after the Italian parliament agreed in principle to amend the Constitution to allow him to return home after nearly 50 years in exile.

The main political parties from across the spectrum struck the accord in the constitutional affairs committee of the Senate on Monday night, in response to growing public pressure to end the ban imposed on the direct male heirs to the House of Savoy setting foot on Italian soil.

The parliamentary whip of the former Communist Democratic Party of the Left, Cesare Salvi, said: "The ban against the Savoys has become an anachronism. After 50 years the republic is very solid. The Savoys no longer frighten anyone." The monarchy was abolished in Italy in 1946 after a popular referendum in which republicans argued that the royal family had been discredited by its links with the Fascist dictatorship of Benito Mussolini.

Decisions reached overwhelmingly in parliamentary committee are normally endorsed by full sessions of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

Vittorio Emanuele, 58, and his son, Emanuele Filiberto, 22, live in exile in Switzerland. Vittorio Emanuele said he intends to make his homecoming by ferry, landing at Naples. "I want to return by sea, since I left by sea. I was nine years old when I left Italy," he told *Il Messaggero*.

His cousin, the Duke of

Aosta, Amedeo of Savoy, who is the third in line to the throne and who was not affected by the ban, said on television that he hopes to run for the office of President of the republic if parliament adopts proposed reforms to introduce direct election of the head of state. Many Italians prefer the Duke of Aosta to Vittorio Emanuele, who caused national embarrassment when he was tried in a French court on charges of manslaughter.

The Prince was acquitted in the case, in which he was accused of firing a rifle from his yacht when it was moored off Corsica, fatally wounding a German tourist who was sleeping in a vessel near by. The long-haired Emanuele Filiberto has grown in popularity in recent months because of his commentaries on first-division football games that have been broadcast in Italian homes on the television soccer programme *Quelli che il Calcio*.



Vittorio Emanuele: "I will return by sea"

Emanuele's support for first-division Juventus evidently spurred Susanna Agnelli, the Foreign Minister, whose family owns the club, to state last month that the prince and his father should be allowed to enter Italy.

The deal between the parties stopped short of granting an additional long-standing request by monarchists that the bodies of the last Kings of Italy, Vittorio Emanuele III and Umberto II, be brought back to Italy together with that of the late Queen Elena.

"I did not want to introduce this question as well for fear of throwing in jeopardy our agreement," said Senator Filiberto Scalone, of the "post-fascist" National Alliance, who proposed the constitutional amendment with the support of the conservative Forza Italia party, the Italian Popular Party (former Christian Democrats), and of the evolutionist Northern League. Only the hardline Marxist party, Rifondazione Comunista, opposed the agreement.

The parties ruled out the return of royal property, confiscated after Italians in a referendum in 1946 voted to abolish the monarchy, to the Savoys. Signor Scalone said the amendment will be debated in the upper house by December 15.

Vittorio Emanuele said he was surprised by the decision, given the political bickering in recent weeks. "I did not imagine they would think of us with the current climate in Italy."

Leading article, page 17



Norbert Blüm: fought the Cabinet decision

Germans given more time to buy

FROM OUR BONN CORRESPONDENT

FOR the first time in almost 40 years, German shoppers will be allowed to buy provisions after 6.30pm and even on Saturday afternoons.

Yesterday's controversial Cabinet decision marks a watershed in German shopping habits. "It is a breakthrough," said Günter Rexrodt of the Free Democrats, the Economics Minister. "There will be an entirely new shopping culture."

Norbert Blüm, the Christian Democrat Labour Minister, fought against the changes, saying it would overburden shopworkers: "This was an attempt to find a middle way between the two extremes of doing nothing and doing everything."

German shops will be allowed to open between 6am and 8pm from Monday to Friday. On Saturday, shops can stay open until 4pm.

Bonn court lets pacifists call soldiers 'murderers'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANS are free to describe soldiers as murderers, according to a constitutional court decision yesterday which cuts to the heart of the country's uneasy relationship with its army.

Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister, criticised the verdict, while pacifists, who have been displaying "Soldiers are murderers" stickers and posters, were celebrating the ruling as a triumph for freedom of speech.

The phrase "soldiers are murderers" is a quotation from the Weimar poet and satirist, Kurt Tucholsky, and has become a rallying call for those protesting about Germany's more active military role overseas. The controversy over the phrase has been hanging over the fortieth anniversary of the Bundeswehr, at a recent torch-lit parade in the centre of Bonn, for example, demonstrators chanted: "Murderers, murderers!"

Other protesters have been charged with libel for holding up "soldiers are murderers" placards during American military exercises in Germany and handing out leaflets denouncing army employees as "potential killers".

The constitutional court verdict yesterday — the second on the issue — made clear that it would still be against the law to approach a German soldier in a public house, for instance, and accuse him of murder: that would be a libel against an individual. But the broader use of the phrase is protected by the constitutional right to freedom of speech.

Herr Rühe could barely

hide his irritation. "I am utterly dismayed that young men who have a legal obligation to serve in the army cannot be given matching legal protection against the slanderous portrayal of their profession."

Other Christian Democrats joined in the chorus of protest. At stake, they said, was the whole image of the German army at a time of upheaval. In the past four years the East and West German armies have been merged, overall troop numbers have been cut

from 600,000 to 370,000, defence budget cuts have bitten deep and morale is reported to be low. At the same time, Nato and the United Nations are pressing Germany with more urgency to serve in missions in war zones such as the Balkans. That has ushered in a period of confusion, further compounded by historians who have dug up and publicised fresh evidence that the German army, not just the SS, was involved in the Holocaust. "Just when we need good, honourable war heroes to show the young generation

that it is possible to fight abroad with honour, we find more and more mud thrown at the army," a senior German officer said recently. The Social Democrats are pressing for army deserters from the Nazi era, thousands of whom were executed, to be declared the true German heroes of the Second World War, or at least to be rehabilitated.

The present row has prewar roots. The pacifist editor Carl von Ossietzky was sentenced to 18 months' jail in 1932 for publishing Kurt Tucholsky's statements. During his treason trial, he quoted Voltaire, Goethe, Kant and Herder, all of whom have described soldiers as murderers, executioners and butchers. Eventually, the editor was freed under an amnesty. Some years later he was sent to a concentration camp. Jürgen Trittin, the Greens' spokesman, was one of those celebrating the verdict yesterday. "Soldiers are paid to defend a democratic state," he said. "The central characteristic of democracy is the constitutional protection of freedom of speech."

Islamic conference: The foreign ministers of Iran, Egypt, Pakistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina are among senior figures invited to participate in a conference on "Europe and the Islamic world" to be hosted by Germany in Bonn next Wednesday and Thursday.

The German Foreign Ministry said that the conference was intended to "foster open dialogue and help to dissipate negative images" of each other. (AFP)

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Details emerge of extraordinary hijack in Bay of Biscay

Almera heist executed with 'Bond' style precision

THE DRAMATIC off shore hijack of 5,594 brand new Nissan Almeras worth more than £50 million was executed with 'Bond' style precision, a police spokesman revealed last night.

Nissan's 15,586 tonne cargo ship, *The City of*

Sunderland, disappeared from radar screens in The Bay of Biscay late last Tuesday night. Police are yet to confirm mysterious reports that a local fishing boat spotted another much larger ship in the area that failed to appear on radar. But *The* idea that one ship could

swallow another is not beyond the bounds of credibility, a spokesman said.

The new Nissan Almera was launched to great acclaim on October 19th and made a very favourable impression with critics at this year's Motor Show held at London's Earl's Court. Nissan told reporters "When we launched the Almera in

October we knew it would be a popular car, but this wasn't quite what we had in mind". The new Almera boasts levels of comfort and technology not normally associated with a family hatchback. All models feature Nissan's highly innovative Multilink Beam Sus-

pension which was developed for Nissan's top of the range executive car, the QX.

Police have dismissed the theory that the heist may have been the work of a rival manufacturer as 'pure speculation', although they admit that whoever was behind the heist must have had huge financial resources. Any member of the public wishing for further information on the new Almera should call 0345 66 99 66.



The new Nissan Almera: launched at the London Motor Show

have been the work of a rival manufacturer as 'pure speculation', although they admit that whoever was behind the heist must have had huge financial resources.

Any member of the public wishing for further information on the new Almera should call 0345 66 99 66.

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The new Spare Chic: elegant, wearable, flattering



RALPH LAUREN: A winning style from the designer's vintage show



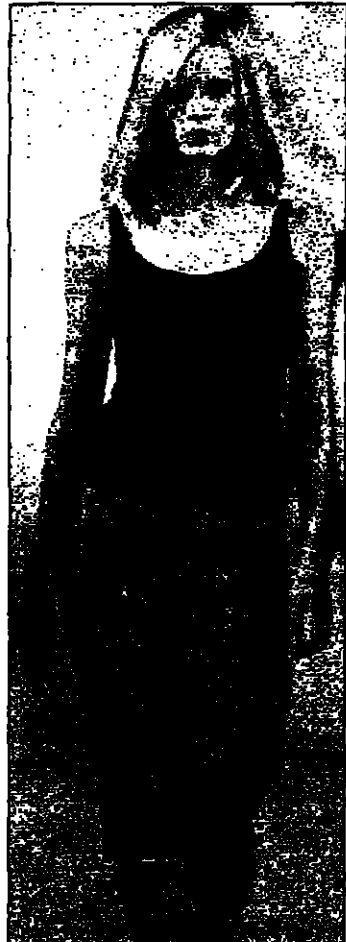
BILL BLASS: The ice-blue coat and dress ensemble looks chic



ISAAC MIZRAHI: The cut and colour combination of the season



RALPH LAUREN: A metallic sheen gives gloss to an understated look



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CALVIN KLEIN: Graphic, easy and carefree



DKNY: Going for the ultimate in zippy fashion



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Photographs by
CHRIS MOORE
AND ANDREW THOMAS

NEW YORK

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

On the pavement on 42nd Street, outside the giant tents which housed the New York spring/summer 1996 fashion previews, an NYPD officer patrolling the block yawned. "Once you've seen one fashion show, you've seen 'em all," he said.

Having seen one show this season in New York, you did know pretty much what to expect from the others: a round neck, boxy jacket; a fly-front, longer-line jacket worn with pedal-pusher pants; a jacket with a zip; a fit 'n' flair shift dress; a long, matt jersey dress in a block of colour; a dress, jacket or shirt with a wide 1950s neckline; something in flesh pink — the Americans call it "nude"; something in creamy leather and anything in shantung silk. Oh, and a pair of barely-there sandals.

The problem, you see, is "Spare Chic", which is all the rage on Seventh Avenue, New York's rag-trade district. I mean, how spare can a collection be? How understated can a designer become without losing his or her identity?

The good news is that the clothes are user-friendly and flattering. They are undeniably chic — spare or otherwise.

Three looks which will sail into summer from Ralph Lauren's show are his shantung silk trousersuits (in shades of blue from ice to Citrine-pale), his long, sensuous jersey evening dresses in bright colours, and his ruc, sweater and trouser combination.

Where Lauren is supremely elegant, Calvin Klein and Donna Karan prefer modern. Both designers presented clean-cut collections which featured slinky, matt jersey, soft leathers and lots of black and white. Where Klein favoured pale blue, nude and custard cream, Karan offered a stronger palette: chestnut, lime, canary yellow, orange, pink, and silver grey. The accent of both collections being easy, pull-on/shrug-off clothes,

essentially down-trodden looks into something special.

There are no pretensions at Michael Kors. The designer still shows in his cramped showroom and continues to pursue his own brand of simplicity. For summer he offers boxy tunics worn with shorts or short skirts, rib knits, sleek tailoring and strapless evening gowns in predominantly neutral shades highlighted with orange, yellow and vivid apple green.

Of the rest, Isaac Mizrahi did 1950s chic a little too authentically; Anna Sui did two collections in one — trad chic and bad chic; Ghost got stuck in the lingerie department; Norma Kamali gave a retrospective of her greatest hits; and Victor Alfaro's streamlined looks make him a name to watch.

Overall, New York looked great, but sometimes just a little too familiar. At the DKNY show at the beginning of the week, Liza Minnelli turned up in the front row and the press went mad. She was there again at the last show, Donna Karan's mainline collection, but the buzz was not as enthusiastic. It is not that she wasn't still fabulous, it is just that we had kind of been there before.

As the cop said: "Once you've seen one Liza Minnelli, you've seen 'em all."

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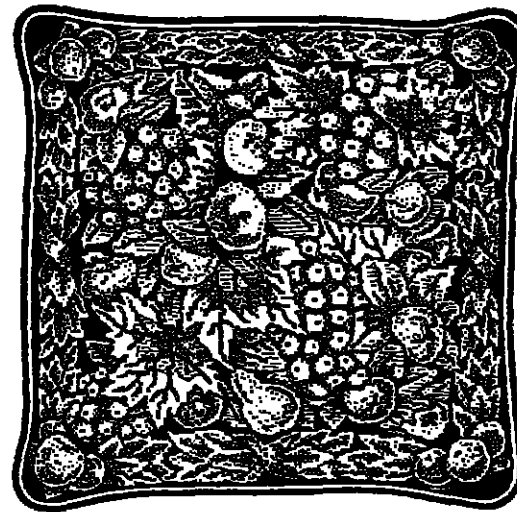
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Peking in struggle over lama successor

BY JAMES PONTON

IN PEKING

CHINA and the Dalai Lama have appeared to be locked in a power struggle over choosing the successor to Tibet's 14th spiritual leader. Peking was insisting that the final say over the reincarnation of the late Lama should be made by the Chinese government. The Dalai Lama, who has been in exile since 1959, has been insisting that the choice should be made by the Tibetan people. The two sides have been at odds since the late Lama's death in 1989. The Chinese government has been insisting that the reincarnation should be made by the Chinese government. The Dalai Lama has been insisting that the choice should be made by the Tibetan people. The two sides have been at odds since the late Lama's death in 1989.

The backbench widows

Why one Tory MP's wife has decided to speak out about the thankless life of the political spouse

They wear floral frocks from the nearby-new shop and sport a regulation blonde bob and hairband. They spend their days apportioning pitches at the village fête and their nights curled up on the sofa with a gin, watching their husbands on *Newsnight*. They nurse a secret passion for Michael Portillo and have nightmares about arriving naked at the constituency annual dinner. The life of the Tory wife is one of unrelenting drudgery and unshakable loyalty, of total discretion and perfunctory recognition.

"Once I was having quite a serious operation and the whips wouldn't allow John out of a vote," recalls Vanessa Hannam, wife of Sir John Hannam, the Member for Exeter. "When we had our dog put down, however, that was understood. I think that shows where wives stand in the pecking order."

Lady Hannam, 55, has been a Tory wife for 14 years. Sir John is her second husband. She is his second wife. "For a while after I married him, several constituents called me Wendy [his first wife]."

Tonight Lady Hannam appears in *Modern Times*, a BBC2 documentary about these dutiful spouses, whom she describes as "Stepford wives". "I find their loyalty to a system which makes them and their families such victims rather puzzling," she says. "Look at all the broken marriages, resentful wives, resentful children."

"When one MP's wife, who

had spent her life organising wonderful bazaars and coffee mornings, died, I asked where the memorial service would be. I was very snottily informed that 'women don't have memorial services'."

Here is a lone voice of dissent, set against a chorus of weary resignation. Wives who live in the constituency get used to attending parents' evenings alone and communicating with their husband through letters left on the lavatory seat.

"I know a very distinguished Tory wife who spent the summer rushing from hospital to hospital, where various members of her family were ill," says Lady Hannam. "She kept being asked 'Where is your husband?' She said: 'I have never expected him to be with me. I have always coped on my own.'"

Exactly the right attitude, according to Sally Neubert, wife of the member for Romford and chairman of the Conservative Wives' Association. Lady Neubert says: "When wives complain to me about the absence of their husbands, I say to them: 'Did you know he was a political animal when you married him? What do you expect? Is self-gratification all you want? If they would only fall in with his plans they would be so much happier.'"

Of course, everyone feels a bit down occasionally, which

is when Lady Neubert comes into her own, arranging day trips to stately homes and talks on knot-tying. "I'm here to cheer them up. They can tackle a problem better once they have had one or two nice jaunts," she says.

Lady Hannam has never been on such a jaunt. "I don't want to sit listening to Teresa Gorman who has condescend-



JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

ed to come to talk to us about hot flushes. I find it quite insulting to women's intelligence."

Life is considerably easier for Labour wives. They are not expected to play Lady Bountiful. The whole ball game is quite different," says Lady Hannam.

A backbencher's wife must struggle to run a home on a salary less than that of the assistant chef's at the House of Commons. "Constituents dressed in brand-new Jaeger complain about all the perks you are getting, when you are

scouring the racks at Oxfam," says Lady Hannam, who looks exceedingly glamorous in her cast-offs.

"Recently I attended a party and Number 11 and Gillian Clarke told me she is allowed two fake flower arrangements a year. Daffodils in winter, roses in summer. When Thérèse Lawson was there I remember her telling me how she had to vacuum up cheese footballs after cocktail parties, because the cleaning allowance was so small, and how they were told that they could get in window cleaners for the upper floors, but it was assumed they could clean the ground-floor windows themselves. Personally, I would like to think that the wife of the Chancellor was qualified to do better things than clean windows."

"I could not have afforded to marry John if I had not already paid off the mortgage," continues Lady Hannam, who lives in a splendid house in an unfashionable part of south London, where she will not let me walk unaccompanied to the Tube. Her husband is retiring at the next election ("That's why I can speak out") and is hoping for a consultancy. "At last we won't be living on peanuts."

There are some perks, however. "A few years ago John handed me a circular, saying I really must take advantage of this. It was an offer for wives

and secretaries to have a free cervical smear, in a parked van outside the Admiralty. A footnote added you must bring a dressing gown, because there might be a long wait."

No wonder more and more MPs are letting their constituencies know that their wife will not be available for the church tea rota, because she has enough to do holding down her job in the City. Sleaze-wary career politicians, now forced to register every cheese sandwich and glass of ginger beer, are relying on their wives to send the children to public school and pay the vet's fees. Mr Portillo is married to a recruitment consultant who earns more than £250,000 a year; John Patten's wife, Louise, earns six figures as a headhunter.

Gail Redwood, the wife of John, is a company secretary for British Airways, and in *Modern Times* she describes how, during this summer's leadership election, work became a sanctuary from the press camping on the lawn.

Lady Hannam, who is writing a screenplay about a politician's beleaguered family, tells the story of an MP's wife who, when addressing the local party, asked if they would like to ask any questions about her high-flying career. "There was total silence and eventually someone said 'Is it true that Cecil Parkinson is as attractive as they say he is?'"

Modern Times: Tory Wives. BBC2, 9pm



Vanessa Hannam: her husband got time off over their dog, but not for her operation

George Walden on how this year's judges chose fiction's top prize

Asked about the state of a certain country, a writer described it as "a vegetating catastrophe". Like all good phrases it has multiple applications. You look at yourself in the morning mirror and you think: "I am a vegetating catastrophe." You switch on the news and you begin to think the whole country is a vegetating catastrophe. Though the writer, Céline, was not talking about Britain, but Russia. The British do not go in for catastrophes. We are content to vegetate. And as long as you vegetate you are staying off catastrophe.

So what of the state of our literary culture? When you read first-rate prose, like that of *The Ghost Road* by Pat Barker, sometimes you feel you are snatching illicit pleasures on the sly. Usually we are called on to applaud everything indiscriminately, and to ask no questions. In this sense the British live under a kind of benign, democratic tyranny: the tyranny of ordinariness. The victims, of course, are ordinary, intelligent people who are encouraged to aspire, at the most, to the mediocre.

A year or two ago, I presented the prizes to sixth-formers in a secondary school. I made my speech about the importance of literature for our heritage and suchlike, and began handing out the prizes — books the pupils had chosen themselves.

Then I made a mistake. I looked at the books. Six "bookbusters", four stories for weirdos, and three copies of a cruel satire on politicians popular at the time. Naturally, no one said anything. In tyrannies you learn to watch your tongue. The mayor beamed and the vicar looked on indulgently, while the representative of the people went on handing out trash with his indiscriminate smile.

Our tyranny of ordinariness is flourishing. Market conditions are highly favourable. Dissident voices mutter about a devaluation of the currency, but they are merely displaying their ignorance of economics. The more devalued your cultural currency, the more you sell.

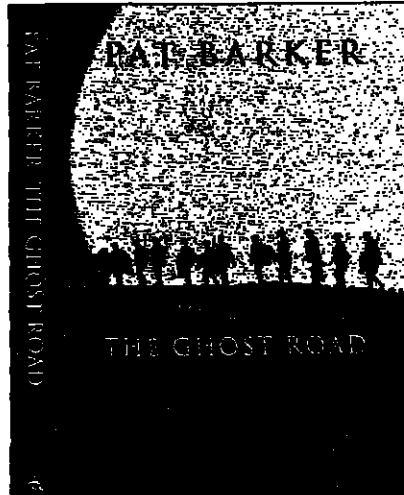
The most productive authors — the Stakhanovites of mediocrity — are generously rewarded. If you write a bad enough book, you earn millions, you are read by the Prime Minister, and you end up in the House of Lords. If you write a brilliant novel, you are dealt with accordingly. You get a modest cheque, a free meal and a grumbling speech from a retiring backbencher.

The abolition of the Net Book Agreement will be a boon for ordinariness. It will drive highbrow books off the shelves and keep them where they belong: preferably behind the author's high brow.

Dissident voices complain of a declining culture, but then how do you define culture? There used to be a Soviet joke. Question: How do you catch a lion? Answer: Easy. You catch a rabbit and you beat it until it confesses to being a lion. Culture is what the commissars of ordinariness say it is. If the commissars say a rabbit is a lion, then a lion it is.

Broadcasters, voluntarily or otherwise,

Why Pat Barker won the Booker



Pat Barker: Great War trilogy

are the propagandists of ordinariness. Only recently, Radio 3 appointed someone with the specific task of keeping the tone down. Art is encouraged as modernism — brilliant in its day — is repackaged as something totally new, and most extraordinary. In the old days you produced the art first then looked for somewhere to display it. Now you buy the display premises first then order up the art.

Such are the economics of creativity that £50 million invested in a derelict power station will buy you £50 million worth of art.

Investment in art will put us well ahead of international competitors, much of whose art is obsolescent. The French store some of their old art in a disused railway station, the Gare d'Orsay. Not only will our art be more up-to-date than theirs: our power station is bigger than their railway station. So we shall have much more art than them.

Intellectuals pose a threat to tyrannies, though we should keep it in proportion. The British can be over-sensitive about being thought to be too intellectual. Like anorexic girls who worry about getting fat. It is not as if intellectualism were a virus on the loose. The authorities have it well in hand. Already the newspapers, Parliament, television and the radio are almost thought-free zones. There are pockets of resistance, but one day we shall be able to claim that in these islands of ours intellectualism, like rabies, has been largely wiped out.

The tyranny of ordinariness drives good young writers underground and into artistic introversion. Which is why we have more and more novels about novelists. Alternatively, they can escape into the past. I say this because so few of the Booker entries tackled modern England. Are our writers, by their silence, making a point? Is there something wrong with England? Why do they shy away from us? Do we give off a bad smell, like old vegetation?

The blight from the present is becoming a general phenomenon. If the past is another country, then we are facing a sort of mass emigration. Nostalgia is becoming our heavy industry.

In the general retreat to the past all classes and conditions meet. The Prince of Wales oversees the construction of pastiche villages. Seamstresses busy away at costumes for television adaptations of old-time novelists. Nationalist politicians, sensing the mood, desperately give the breath of life to long-dead enemies. Even avant-garde artists have turned archaeologists. They dig up old jokes and present them as new, like ageing comedians, hoping that no one has heard them before. Meanwhile, armies of biographers ransack history for subjects and unearth terrible scandals, proving beyond doubt that they had sex then too. Yes, even Gladstone.

In *Art and Illusion*, Sir Ernst Gombrich, that brilliant and playful critic, inadvertently provided a means to define a culture. All you do is ask yourself whether a picture, a book, or a piece of music is ping or pong, dead or alive? What goes for art is true of whole societies. At some point you have to decide when an entire era is over, or whether you are going to re-live it endlessly. What do we want? Movement or stagnation? A vibrant country or a patch of overgrown vegetation? Ping or pong, dead or alive?

Adapted from the speech by George Walden MP at the Booker Prize dinner last night

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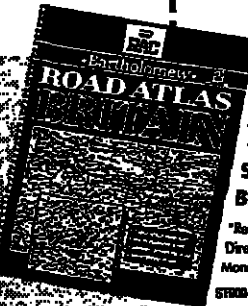
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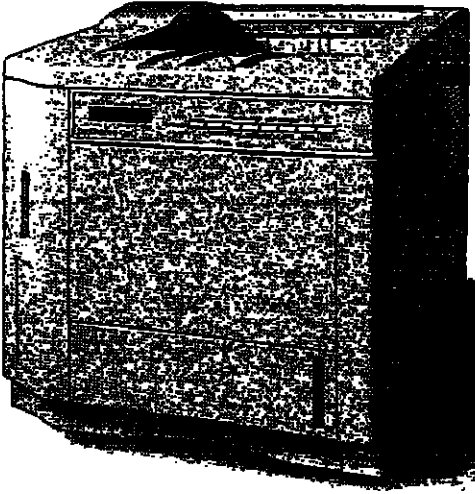
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Put the heart back into communities

Jack Straw outlines plans to revive our sense of responsibility

Britain must move from dependency back to vibrant community life. It would be idle to ignore the mounting evidence of individuals, families, and communities under great pressure, in some cases fractured, with little in the way of mutual support. Civic society depends more and more on a declining band of committed volunteers, while six out of ten registered voters do not even vote in local elections.

Most parents do not now allow their children to play outside unsupervised. Half of all women are afraid to drive alone at night through city areas. The proportion of parents who let their children walk to school unaccompanied has fallen by more than half in a decade, from 70 to 30 per cent. So when people call for "more bobbies on the beat" they make a profound statement about the importance of street life. They are saying that they want visible reassurance.

But the most powerful cause of community breakdown is economic insecurity. Many people, especially those unemployed or on low incomes, end up trapped at home, their lives effectively privatised. And, as the gap between the price of a pint in a pub and that of a can of lager from a supermarket has widened, leisure for many on low incomes, especially those without the social network of a workplace, means the television or video, not the more socially active entertainment involved in going out.

The decline in the health of communities has been exacerbated by the something-for-nothing, me-first society — a society in which people have been encouraged to take what they can for themselves, without contributing to the common good, and one which disowns responsibility.

This over-emphasis on rights, to the near exclusion of duties and responsibilities, has two consequences. First, our natural tendency towards selfishness has been reinforced. Take just one example, which now badly affects around one in five households: noise. Many people believe that their "right" to play loud music exceeds their duty not to disturb their neighbours. The consequences are dreadful for the victims.

Secondly, the notion of duties rights has made rights appear like consumer items on a supermarket shelf. But far from providing people with more real freedom, this puts people in the position of dependants. In turn, this has led to a feeling of powerlessness in the face of an overbearing State, which has been reinforced by the Tories' transfer of power from the elected representatives of local communities to both the central State and to "quangos", and by a process which has treated us all as customers first and citizens last.

So how can we move back to mutual responsibility? Primarily, we have to ensure that everyone in society can share

in that most fundamental of community activities — work. Work is not only the means by which people sustain themselves, it is also the way they gain a stake in their community.

But we must also strengthen the institutions which bond communities together. Ending central government's capping of local authority budgets will make locally elected representatives much more responsible for the decisions they take on behalf of their neighbourhoods. Add the development of schemes for elected mayors, along American lines, and the introduction of annual elections all over the country and we could see a genuine renewal of local democracy.

There also has to be change not only in what government does, but in how it does it. Major reforms should be brought about only with the active consent of people, either by explicit endorsement of a specific manifesto commitment or by referendum.

Labour is already proposing two referendums. One, to give people the chance to choose which voting system they want for Westminster elections, and one to allow the people of each region in England to determine whether they wish to have an elected regional assembly.

Noise is a prime example of people's selfishness

The most important change, however, involves a change in attitude. We need to break out of the language of duties rights and begin insisting upon mutual responsibility. Rights and duties go hand in hand. That is why, in return for action to deal with unemployment, to give young people a guarantee of a job or training, to tackle homelessness and to provide proper treatment facilities for drug and alcohol abusers, I have argued that the community should expect responsible behaviour from all. Respect should be a two-way street.

Labour wants British law to proclaim the rights which we enjoy as citizens. We shall incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law, to enable British citizens to uphold their rights in British courts. Then we will establish a British Bill of Rights. Its success will depend on the extent of the public's sense of "ownership", and commitment to it. What is needed is a great public debate about what rights are fundamental in our society. That debate must balance rights and duties.

Achieving this measure of cultural change will be difficult. If politicians are to ask others to accept a greater measure of responsibility, they must start by doing so themselves. This means being responsible for their public actions, as MPs or ministers, and for the probity with which they conduct those public duties — which is why the Nolan inquiry has been so important. Leadership requires example.

This article is taken from the Shadow Home Secretary's Ambassador's Lecture, delivered last night.



A place for advocates

MPs ought to represent vested interests — be paid, and declare them

As a full moon rose over Westminster on Monday night, a collective lunacy took hold of the place. Madness began in Downing Street but raced through the streets and corridors, until by 7 o'clock the banks of the Thames were lined with 600 politicians baying to the sky.

At that moment the entire Cabinet voted at John Major's bidding for a disreputable measure in which none of them believed and on which they knew they would be beaten. The measure was to allow MPs to keep secret how much money they are paid to lobby on behalf of outside interests.

Parodying Melbourne's definition of loyalty, John Major pleaded that his friends support him not only when they knew he was wrong but when they knew he knew he was wrong. His hapless aide, Tony Newton, was then sent round to the BBC to perjure himself by declaring that nobody had been whipped and the vote was "free". He did not explain why ministers sneaked through the government lobby that night wearing dark glasses and holding their noses.

Those who daily examine British politics try to make sense even of its more putrid entrails. They reveal how, at some private meeting, Tom told Dick he thought he could "swing" Harry... that the PM was up north when the whips promised ten votes from Bob... that with hindsight so-and-so's bluff might have been called... that unfortunately Lord Pooh-Bah had a dinner.

Policy thus proceeded down the Royal Road from common sense to the kingdom of fiasco. Yet this search for sanity is important. We must believe that, despite appearances, government is a rational activity conducted by sensible people. Otherwise we go mad.

Monday's sleaze vote defies such analysis. Last summer Mr Major was in a quandary over the Nolan report on parliamentary ethics. He personally supported it, as did his colleagues. When told that a handful, even a bucketful, of the less reputable Tory backbenchers did not like the proposals, bluntly because they had much to hide, he funded a confrontation and booted the proposals to another committee. The committee was minded to agree with Nolan, until the whips panicked at the size of the "disreputable" faction.

Ethics and tactics both now pointed in the same direction. Mr Major could have faced down the Disreputables and whipped through the

House as a whole would have passed them with opposition support. Or he could have had nothing to do with the matter, on the reasonable ground that the ethics of MPs are for the Commons collectively, not the Government, to determine. He should vote on the day as his conscience determined. Again the Disreputables would have been defeated. Either would have suited Mr Major.

In the event, his wits seem to have deserted him. He encouraged the committee chairman, Mr Newton, to vote for non-disclosure in the hope that this would appease the Disreputables. Labour duly said it would insist on disclosure when the matter came to the Commons, safe in the knowledge that on a free vote many Tories would agree with it. Mr Major was outsmarted. He was like a bemused actor who had wandered into the wrong camp in a Shakespeare history play. The Disreputables seized him and hypnotised him. He became their willing prisoner and dragged his colleagues after him, which they will not readily forgive.

Since his leadership triumph in July, Mr Major has had the aura of some undeclared interest, some deal with person or persons unknown, some alien spirit hovering on his shoulder. Mephistopheles has taken up residence in the Downing Street attic, and whispers instructions through the walls. "Two souls, alas, dwell in my breast," Mr Major cries with Faust. He is at the mercy not so much of the Right — he at last means to face them down over divorce — as of anyone who says boo to him loudly enough. When that includes the Disreputables, there is no telling to whom the Government of the country is now accountable, or vulnerable.

We cannot look for salvation to the other side. Labour made a mockery of this free vote by hauling MPs back from their freebies, junkets and "fact-finding missions" (even from China and Australia) to ensure a full turn-

out against the Government. Anything less like a great profession deliberating on the reform of its ethical code is hard to imagine. To the Shadow Cabinet, this was a gifted opportunity to give the Tories a bloody nose. Personal conscience could go hang. For Labour MPs, conscience should display the same felicitous identity with the views of Tony Blair as the Tory conscience did with the views of Mr Major. One of the marvels of British politics is how precise is this moral convergence of MP and party.

Monday's actual decisions were mostly daft. Financial disclosure is only controversial to MPs who live in towers of the most exquisite ivory. MPs are entitled to privacy in their private incomes, but not in the private supplements they receive for work linked to their parliamentary duties. Were a civil servant or minister found receiving similar secret payments, he would have to resign. Were a doctor to recommend a course of treatment because he was secretly in the pay of a drugs company, he too would be disciplined. Were a journalist to write an article plugging a company of which he was an undisclosed paid servant, he would be fired.

MPs have no mystical immunity from such ethical constraints. Yesterday, two of the Disreputables, Sir Michael Neuber and Michael Stern, said that they might disobey the new rules. I wonder how they would react if their own professional advisers concealed secret payments from them in this way. Yet Mr Major's Cabinet voted to maintain secrecy. They can hardly now stand up and lecture the nation on the need for openness in public or corporate life.

Where I part company with the new rules is over the ban on paid advocacy when openly disclosed. Advocacy is the essence of a parliamentarian's job. Parliament is supposed to be an assembly of the nation. It is elected on a territorial basis, but it no longer legislates or deliberates that way. Almost every substantive

argument concerns public or private corporate interests, clashing or colluding with the rights of consumers, claimants, institutions and professions. As in a court of law, such interests should be represented, and other than through the mouths of ministers.

A deliberative chamber without advocates is a game of charades. To pretend that an MP should sit in Parliament to represent only the interests of a geographical constituency and his party leadership is archaic. It concedes the dominance of government business over the vocation of politics. In centralised Britain, territorial constituencies are becoming no more relevant to government than were the pre-1832 rotten boroughs. In my view, MPs should be paid by any company, trade union, lobbyist or good cause they like. They should be allowed, indeed encouraged, to pursue the interests of groups as well as territories in the House. They should be free to earn as much as they can in the open market, and use the Commons as their forum. A forum is a marketplace, properly so called. The one absolute requirement is that every interest and remuneration should be declared.

Strip away interest and Parliament is merely a monument to political history. It becomes lobby-fodder, a band of emasculated, ill-paid, gagged-and-bound footsolders at their party's call. It is a group of silent candidates awaiting the lure of office and resigning when office has discarded them. The one thing we assume politicians are good at is political advocacy. To deny them this role, or the wherewithall to perform it, is absurd. Yet this is what the Commons has just done. The baby of advocacy has been thrown out with the bathwater of disclosure.

The Nolan debate was a chance for the Commons to tear up its professional assumptions and modernise them. For 12 years Margaret Thatcher resisted serious parliamentary reform. A radical in matters far from her office, she was deeply conservative towards her immediate environment. She also knew that an unreformed Parliament was where she shone. It posed no threat to the prerogatives of executive power in Britain. Mr Major has shown he means to keep it that way, even if occasionally Parliament turns and tweaks his nose.

Alan Coren



I'm afraid the warrant's not ready — can you come back Tuesday?

My very good friend the milkman says that I've been losing too much sleep. He doesn't like the hours I keep.

He didn't say this to me, mind, he said it to his very good friend the detective sergeant, who, of course, immediately pulled me in for questioning. He wanted to know why I was walking up and down the road clad only in a dressing gown at 6 am. I said I was looking for my very good friend the milkman because we had run out of semi-skimmed, but the DS invited me to pull this one because it had bells on, did I honestly expect him to believe it was just a coincidence that I was wandering the streets improperly clothed at that very moment when women might be getting up and dressing in front of uncurtained windows? I pointed out that I did indeed buy a bottle from the milkman, also six eggs and a sliced brown, and the DS said: "Yes, well, you would, wouldn't you, once he had clocked you, but fortunately for the community there are no flies on your milkman, he is ever on the alert to implement dairy policy regarding dodgy behaviour of customers."

Not that I need to tell you any of this, you will already have read all about it thanks to the sergeant's very good friend the tabloid hack. You have not, however, read about my tricky little contretemps at the dry cleaners', since my grey flannel suit is still undergoing forensic tests and it could be days before national attention is brought to the fact that when I went to collect it yesterday, my very good friend the dry cleaner said that his staff had reported a number of stubborn marks, and it was now company policy not to treat these before the Serious Stains Squad had had a good look, lest essential evidence be destroyed, eg, rat poison, Semtex, crack, blood, harmful additives as specified in EU directive 446/279 b, or anything else of an iffy nature. ha-ha-ha, he trusted he did not have to draw pictures, we were both men of the world.

I have to say that I was somewhat irritated at not being able to pick up my grey flannel suit, it is a long walk to the dry cleaners, and one fraught with discomfort, given that I have to pass the establishment of my very good friend the butcher, who recently dialled 999 to report that I had asked him to deliver a stuffed loin of pork. This, he told them, was the first time in he did not know how many years that he had been asked to stuff one for us, he knew for a fact that my wife liked to prepare pork loin herself, and — here's a funny thing — he had not seen Mrs Coren for some days, and since it was company policy to draw attention to the possibility that a regular customer might have been buried under the rockery, he had not messaged about. Fortunately, my wife got to the door before the Flying Squad kicked it in, and was able to persuade them that she was indeed who she claimed, thanks, it must be said, to the testimony of a number of paparazzi who have been camped out in the front garden for the past few weeks waiting to see whether she will be charged with anything when she goes to collect her shoes, given that our very good friend the cobbler had let it be known that ten pairs of high-heels borders, in his professional opinion, on the fetishistic.

You will, I suppose, have been wondering why, a couple of sentences back, I had to walk to the dry cleaners, when you know that I have a perfectly good car. The fact is that my car has been taken away by the police for spectrum analysis on the advice of my very good friend the local service manager, to whom it was reported by the mechanic replacing its brake pads in order to make it perfectly good that he had found two tubes of Smarties in the glove compartment and an old raincoat in the boot, items of which all middle-aged motorists were required by head office to give satisfactory account before their cars could be returned to them. Do not, let me quickly say, object to any of this. Since the current zealotry is, I'm sure, directly attributable to the policy of my very good friend the Home Secretary that we must all watch one another or die, how could I? If eternal vigilance is the price of freedom, it surely cannot matter a jot if freedom is the price of eternal vigilance.

Club class

A YOUNG butler has been sacked from Peter de Savary's Scottish playground for millionaires, the Carnegie Club at Skibo Castle, after he and two colleagues went on a spree in the grounds.

The trio commandeered an electric golf-buggy and drove it to the club's Olympic-sized pool. They are said to have played dogdodgers with buggies on a green of the championship course. And they broke into the pool for a dip in the small hours. Security staff heard their splashes.

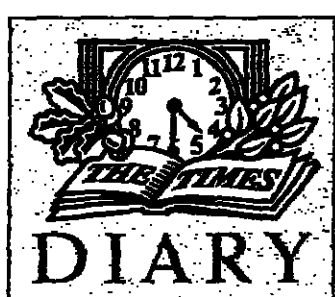
Yesterday, de Savary, the former America's Cup yachtman who once owned both Land's End and John o'Groats, said the caper was a youthful folly. "The youngsters were drunk and behaved very foolishly. One has been let go and the other two have been seriously reprimanded. We will not tolerate such behaviour. All our staff have been reminded they must abide by the rules or face the consequences."

Annual membership of the residential sports club costs £2,000. "We are very careful with security. This is an exclusive club and guests don't expect staff to behave like that. We had to let one young man go as a warning to the others."

As Editor of The Sunday Telegraph, Charles Moore cut a dash in the classical world by encouraging his readers to learn Latin. But now he runs The Daily Telegraph his touch appears to have left him. In an editorial comment yesterday on Diego Maradona's appearance at Oxford University, the Telegraph referred to Gladstone and Curzon as "alumni" of the Union. My Latin Primer says they



"Nolan is still more entertaining"



must therefore have been female — unless Moore meant "alumni".

Colonised

THE HONG KONG Governor, Chris Patten, is being wooed by constituency associations, which are urging him to stand as their next MP. Even though he is supposedly tied to Hong Kong until mid-1997, local activists see him as a potential leader and want him to stand at the general election.

After Monday's humiliating defeat for John Major, Patten is again being seen as the great white hope. Chippingham Conservative Association in Wiltshire, searching for a replacement for its present MP, Richard Needham, who is standing down, is said to have written to him, although the local chairman, John Mortimer, refused to com-

ment. Leading lights in the Harrogate association are also in pursuit of Patten's trim figure — and friends suggest his head could be turned by such flattering approaches.

Out of puff

AN UNATHLETIC Oxford University student has arrived in New York to run in the city's marathon after losing a wager. Heinrich Pezold, 23, admits it will be his first exercise for eight years.

Pezold, a postgraduate history student at Wolfson College, bet a friend that he would not buy him a business-class airline ticket from London to New York. "If you do, I shall run the marathon," he said. The 1993 conversation was forgotten until he opened the post last month in London. Inside was a business-class air ticket and registration documents for the New York marathon. "I shall try my best and hope to finish," said the poor Pezold yesterday of his Wodehousean fate. "The last time I took any exercise was at my grammar school. My sports teacher threw me out of the class."

Although Pat Barker will be popping open the champagne after winning the Booker Prize for The Ghost Road, she takes a cyni-



Office dogs: would you take yours to work?

cal view of such plaudits. Only last month she told a colleague: "Book prizes are a necessary evil. I know, intellectually and in my bones, that it's just three lemons in a row."

Dog's body

THE LATEST lifestyle tip from the grandes dames of chic take your dog to work. The offices of *Tatler* are overrun, and journalists claim they are the happier for it.

Snarling clashes between the social editor's cocker spaniel, Ollie, and the deputy editor's West High-

P.H.S

صلى الله عليه وسلم

Alan Coren

I'm afraid the warrant's not ready - can you come back Tuesday?

THE TIMES

صكزا من الاصل

LIFE AFTER NOLAN

After the vote, the real reckoning begins

The full implications of the changes to parliamentary rules agreed on Monday night will only gradually become clear. The disclosure of fees for outside work and the ban on paid advocacy ought to enhance both the performance of MPs and the esteem in which they are held. But progress is likely to be uneven. Politicians and voters will be digesting these issues for months to come.

The immediate political impact is the easiest to discern. John Major will win thanks neither from his party nor from the country for his opposition to openness. Those of his backbenchers who voted against disclosure are furious that they were defeated and blame their leader for having set up the Nolan committee at all. Those who voted for the Labour amendment may have tarnished their own reputations but still feel justified by the general stain on the character of the party that Mr Major's resistance to change will have brought. Most angry perhaps will be those Tory MPs who voted for the party line out of loyalty alone: however grave their doubts, they will find themselves vilified in their constituencies come the next general election campaign.

For a Prime Minister who is supposed to excel at party management and tactical wiles, the Nolan affair has been a humiliating episode. It does not augur well for the "relaunch" after his leadership victory. Even before the vote, it was clear that the Tories could only lose: disclosure would be a defeat for a motion backed by Mr Major; resistance to disclosure would enmesh the public view of the Conservatives as the party of sleaze.

But what of the MPs themselves and the causes with which they have been associated? Lobbyists, pressure groups and companies will still seek to influence the views of Members. The best, as they always have, will do so by the strength of their case.

WINTER DISCONTENTS

Yesterday's reshuffle in Paris solves little

Jacques Chirac ought to be one of Europe's most powerful politicians: on paper his domestic power base is unassailable. He was elected last May to wield the extensive powers of the French presidency for a seven-year term. The Right has a crushing majority in the National Assembly. The franc remains one of the strongest currencies in Europe. M Chirac's grip on power looks enviable.

But the first six months of the Chirac presidency have turned these assumptions upside down. The President and Prime Minister have broken pollsters' records for their unpopularity. Fears of welfare cuts and metro bombs have produced a febrile public mood. The Right's political coalition is fractious and France's partners are angry about nuclear tests in the Pacific. Corruption scandals bubble. The franc is under pressure on the markets and European monetary union is the subject of querulous debate. A French President is almost immovable but his ministers are not: yesterday M Chirac reshuffled a Cabinet which had been in office only since May. A handful of new faces will not solve the Government's problems.

M Chirac was following the logic first explained in a recent television interview which followed a chat with Chancellor Kohl in Bonn: deficit reduction will now be the Paris Government's first task. Chirac the election campaigner has now given way to Chirac the financial realist. Implausible manifesto promises that public spending would be brought down while many new jobs were also created have been forgotten. Stern budgetary rigour will be the order of the day for a lean, purposeful Cabinet which has dropped some of its less impressive performers. France's fellow travellers on the road to a single currency and markets everywhere can rest assured, M Chirac says, that everything is under control.

The President may shore up his poll ratings and the franc may strengthen. But a few new faces do not answer the question begged by France's determination to join

Germany in a monetary union. The issue is political as well as economic: does the Government have the nerve to face down the protests, and perhaps street violence, of the winter of discontent which will now follow?

All pretence that the Maastricht criteria for monetary union can be met by the end of 1997 by small cuts have been abandoned. The huge social security budget will have to be squeezed and benefits cut: the public sector payroll must fall. Fresh taxes, which will push the unemployment rate over the already high 11.4%, may also be needed.

The Fifth Republic's has shown scant capacity in the past to resist mass protest on the streets. If M Chirac is to go through with this strategy, he has to be confident that he can stiffen the sinews of his Government several times between now and the end of 1997, when the EMU decision is made. Continuous budget cuts will be needed to reassure Germany that the monetary rules are not being bent in France's favour. By the second half of 1997, the Government will be facing an election the following spring.

A Government determined to march its people through the pain of another three years of austerity must be very confident that voters see the value of imprisoning powerful Germany inside a single currency. Neither M Chirac's past ambivalence on European issues nor his uncertain behaviour since taking office suggest that he has the single-minded determination necessary to see the job through.

M Chirac may often refer to General de Gaulle but he is suffering by comparison with the founder of the Fifth Republic, who died 25 years ago this week. The General worked overtime to master events and circumstances: M Chirac is trapped between his commitment to monetary union, the markets and a country suffering at the hands of an overvalued franc. Something has to give, and it will give within the next 12 months. If M Chirac can see sense, he will seek to delay the least urgent of his objectives: the single currency.

THE COMMENTATOR AND I

The House of Savoy is on the move - in extra time

Savoy may now be in the Fourth Division so far as the monarchy league goes, but things seem to be looking up for the embattled House. An Italian Senate commission has agreed to vote on a constitutional amendment which would allow Vittorio Emanuele - the grandson of Vittorio Emanuele III, the king who abdicated after an unsuccessful war - to return to Italy.

"VE IV" has spent most of his eventful life on yachts and in Switzerland, unable to visit his kingdom, and has always yearned to go back to Rome with his son and heir, Emanuele. Once Italy has resolved the small matter of its corruption, elections and Government, the Senate should be free to let the regal pair back in. This should be excellent news for a vast number of people - diarch monarchists, *Hello!* magazine and its numerous Italian counterparts, historians, putative courtiers, newspaper diarists, mothers who want to christen their sons Vittorio Emanuele, assorted paparazzi, straightforward romantics and the country's legion of football fans.

Football fans? Yes, football fans. To acknowledge his success in the stunted language of the trade, the boy Emanuele done good. As our Rome correspondent writes on another page, the long-haired heir

is now a celebrated football commentator. A voice which once would have screamed "Off with his head" - or "Get him to the stocks" - now regales his listeners with "Goooooaaal, Laaaaazooooo!" and other Italianate gurgles. There should be nothing strange in this, of course, as historians will tell you: the founder of the House of Savoy, one Umberto the Whitehanded, was a kind of 11th-century baillif, a profession no more regal than that of a television commentator today.

Emanuele has what it takes to succeed in modern Italy. Yet one suspects that the young man would rather sit on a throne than in some cramped box where cigars are smoked, high above the kicking-field. For if there is a country in which it is more arduous by far to be football commentator than to be king, it must be Italy. Kings seldom get red cards: commentators often do.

"We were royalty once," he will tell his sons one day - wistfully, in the way of kings - after the unsporting press has pilloried him for some particularly unforgivable run of clichés. As with most things in football, the goalposts keep changing. But there is a lot of water under the bridge yet to come. Fortunate indeed is the country where kings are commentators. Better, by far, than to have commentators as kings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Lessons for peace from Rabin death

From Mr Robert Kirk

Sir, How ironic it is that it took the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin to bring King Hussein of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt to Jerusalem.

On his visit to Cairo, Rabin had invited Mubarak to make his first visit to Israel and thus promote peace. Mubarak always said that the time was not right. Islamic extremism and the lack of popular support for peace with Israel among Egyptians, plus the open anti-Jewishness of much of the Egyptian press, made such a journey too risky for Mubarak.

King Hussein had wanted to visit the city where he once ruled, but he too was warned by Islamic extremists in Jordan and among West Bank Palestinians that he would be killed if he went, so until now he too stayed home.

Yassir Arafat, fellow recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, was conspicuous by his absence. That sent a message to Israelis: Rabin was murdered for giving self-rule to Palestinians but their leader could not come, said his spokesman, "as much as he would have wanted to". A recent poll among Palestinians showed 65 per cent do not think Israel has a right to exist. The PLO Covenant, calling for Israel's destruction, remains unchanged, despite the PLO's commitment to amend it.

It is in this context of minimal outward popular Arab support for peace with Israel, and the threat of Islamic extremist takeovers in Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian areas, that we see how great is the risk for peace taken by Israel.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT KIRK,
165 Albion Towers,
Salford, Greater Manchester,
November 6.

From Mr Peter Shore, MP, President of the Anglo-Israel Association, and others

Sir, It was with great sadness that we heard the news of the assassination of the Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, was a distinguished statesman who had managed to combine uniquely the attributes of a great warrior with those of a far-sighted peace-maker.

Our solidarity with the people of Israel is shared by those all over the world who understand the need to continue the path to peace begun by Mr Rabin. Indeed, the fulfilment of peace between Israel and its neighbours would be the finest legacy to the memory of Yitzhak Rabin.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SHORE, President,
DAVID SIEFF
(Chairman of Council),
JOHN MARSHALL
(Chairman, Executive Committee),
The Anglo-Israel Association,
9 Bentinck Street, W1.

From Mr Leon M. Fish

Sir, In his Credo article (November 6) the Chief Rabbi refers to the assassination of Gedaliah 2,500 years ago as a "precise parallel" afforded by Jewish history to Saturday's events.

Surely not? Mr Rabin had helped defeat his country's enemies and secure its borders against those who would have destroyed it. Only then was he ready to seek a just and lasting peace. I think it odd for Dr Sacks to equate this with being ready to co-operate by governing as the puppet of an occupying power.

Yours faithfully,
LEON FISH,
89 Hadley Road,
New Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Organ transplants

From Ms Fiona Gravette

Sir, Your report, "Mechanical heart hastens end of human transplant" (October 30) states that the recipient "had been turned down for an NHS heart transplant, which are normally limited to patients under 60 years of age".

People over the age of 60 years are considered for heart transplants within the NHS. Indeed, the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle has given a transplant to a patient aged 64.

The normal practice is for each patient to be assessed on his or her overall state of health. If an older patient is also suffering, for example, from kidney dysfunction, this would have serious implications for the patient's ability to cope with the condition after the operation and could potentially impair recovery.

This report obviously concentrates on hearts, but the same rules apply to other organ transplants. There is no nationally set age limit for transplants, and most definitely no age limit for organ donation.

The development of the electric heart is a tremendous achievement, but it will be some time before it can routinely replace organ transplantation. In the meantime more than 5,000 people are on the transplant waiting list and the desperate shortage of donor organs continues.

Yours faithfully,
FIONA GRAVETTE (Director),
National Transplant Information Service,
PO Box 326,
Richmond, Surrey TW9 1FY,
November 1.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - 0171-782 5046.

Today's poverty, tomorrow's tax cuts

From the Bishop of Croydon and others

Sir, To judge from the main platform speeches at the recent party conferences, the wellbeing of the poorest people in our society - by best estimate some 30 per cent of the population - is of secondary interest in the competitive scramble for the votes of the other 70 per cent.

Such a tactic may have worked in the past, before the present harsh reality could be compared with the promised Utopia of a privatised share-owning democracy; but it is now clear that the price in social disintegration, family break-up, inadequate services and loss of faith in employment as a means of escape from poverty is high and rising.

We, the undersigned, happen to be Christians; but Christians are emphatically not the only people who believe this approach to be wrong and misguided, and that we are all still meant to be our brother's and sister's keeper.

Moreover, in spite of the unacceptably high proportion of their number in prison or homeless and unemployed, young people for the most part reject cynical self-interest. Not all of them have so far decided to opt out altogether. If they choose to, they will vote at the next election - some for the first time. We owe it to them to offer an alternative worthy of their participation and their vote.

We therefore appeal to our fellow "seventy per centers" to join us as the voice of the voiceless by insisting at our every encounter with politicians at all levels that they give us their personal answer to the question: "what will you do about the forgotten 30 per cent?"

Yours faithfully,
TWILFRED CROYDON,
TROGER BARKING,
DOUGLAS BARTLES-SMITH
(Archdeacon of Southwark),
PETER BROADBENT
(Archdeacon of Northolt),
PETER WOOLWICH,
CLIVE YOUNG
(Archdeacon of Hackney),
St Matthew's House,
100 George Street,
Croydon, Surrey,
November 2.

Separation of powers

From the Head of the UK Office of the European Parliament

Sir, Your leader of October 31, "Muffled silence", is wrong in claiming that the European Commission has no claim to democratic legitimacy.

While its members are chosen by heads of government of the member states, the President and the Commission as a whole take office only after extensive hearings and an endorsement debate in the European Parliament.

In addition they are accountable to the European Parliament, are regularly questioned by it in committee and in plenary, and can be dismissed by it after a vote of censure.

The most obvious difference between the European model and the UK structure is that Commissioners are not Members of Parliament themselves. Other democratic institutions - including the United States of America - have no difficulty living with such a separation of powers.

Yours sincerely,
MARTYN BOND,
Head of UK Office,
European Parliament,
2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
November 1.

School funding

From Sir Christopher Benson, Chairman of the Funding Agency for Schools

Sir, May I assure Simon Jenkins, who appears to regard the Funding Agency for Schools as a "freak" organisation ("School for control freaks", October 25), that the 1993 Education Act which established the agency did not "abandon the idea of self-governing institutions".

We were established to perform the funding functions which had previously been carried out in exactly the same way by our colleagues at the Department for Education and Employment: no change in ideas there. We deliberately carry out our functions in a way that supports schools in exercising their freedoms.

However, the agency has a difficult balance to strike: if we failed to monitor effectively the expenditure of grant-maintained schools we would rightly be brought to book by Parliament.

The agency became jointly or wholly responsible in several areas for planning school places at either secondary or primary level, where the number of pupils educated in grant-maintained schools in an individual local education authority (LEA) became significant.

Its policy is to seek planning solutions that schools are comfortable with, working with them to find answers, not imposing decisions. I would argue that this is exactly the behaviour of a "soft touch regulator".

The agency's experience will indeed prove valuable to any future Labour government. We are the only body in England to have experience of funding schools on a national basis and of planning school places by taking a much broader view than the narrow LEA boundary.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BENSON,
Chairman,
Funding Agency for Schools,
Albion Wharf,
25 Skeldergate, York,
October 30.

Charitable gesture

From Mrs M. A. Down

Sir, Congratulations to Mr Keith Whitson, the chief executive of the Midland Bank. His decision to donate to charity the money normally used to send customers Christmas cards (Business, November 6) is to be applauded.

There is plenty of time for the banks and institutions to follow his example and understand the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas.

Yours sincerely,
M. A. DOWN,
62 Swann Lane,
Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire,
November 7.

Family snapshots under scrutiny

From Miss Jennifer Lawrence

Sir, The arrest of Julia Somerville and her partner and the subsequent reprehensible publicity (reports and articles, November 7) place in the public domain concerns held by many professionals frequently involved in matters of this kind.

Over the last ten years, since Esther Rantzen gave sexual abuse of children such prominence, there have been all-too-frequent unfounded allegations of sexual indecency based on the subjective Victorian values of individuals who purport to give children's best interests paramountcy in accordance with the Children Act.

Many sane, loving parents are now afraid to cuddle, massage, bathe with, their children, record the naivety of their nudity and treat it as normal and acceptable, without the fear that in the hands of the wrong person such actions will be regarded as those of the sexual abuser, deviant or paedophile. We cannot allow this grossly unsatisfactory situation to continue.

My sincere hope is that Julia Somerville will have the courage and determination to use her experience and all the powers at her disposal to highlight what is the plight of many parents.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER C. LAWRENCE
(Member, Law Society's Children's Panel),
Lawrences (Solicitors),
Beeching House,
31 Sheep Street,
Wellingborough, Northamptonshire,
November 7.

From Commander C. F. Heron-Watson (ret'd)

Sir, Would any genuine paedophile or child pornographer really ask Boots to develop their dubious films, and are their - unselected - film technicians really the moral guardians of the nation's children?

I am, yours etc,
C. F. HERON-WATSON,
Longmead, Brumton,
Collingbourne Kingston,
Marlborough, Wiltshire,
November 4.

Safe areas in Bosnia

From Miss Nora Beloff

Sir, Malcolm Harper of the United Nations Association (letter, November 4) is quite right to say that "there is no military solution" to the Bosnian war, but he is mistaken on the reason why the "safe areas" were never safe.

It was a precondition for the "safe areas" agreement that these areas would be demilitarised. The Bosnian Muslims refused to disarm and, as we know both from countless Unprofor reports and from David Owen's new book, armed Muslims from these areas launched assaults against surrounding Serb villages.

Yours truly,
NORA BELOFF,
11 Belsize Road, NW6.

Elusive Shakespeare

From the General Manager of the Old Vic

Sir, There is a sad and bitter irony in your witty and erudite leader about there being "something in Shakespeare for everyone" appearing in the same issue (November 3) as a front-page report that the Treasury is seeking to reduce the National Heritage budget by a further £60 million.

This cut, which combined with earlier cuts will amount to 10 per cent of overall arts and heritage spending in a year, will simply increase the current trend of closed theatres and slashed budgets.

Eighty per cent of our population will soon have no access to performances of your universally relevant Shakespeare because few companies can afford to produce it, and it will be rare to find people of the next generation who would understand your leader, let alone write it.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW LEIGH (Vice-Chairman, Theatres National Committee),
The Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1.

Flying high

From Mrs G. M. Wright

Sir, The new Labour Party high-flyers are being sent on courses to learn how to govern the country (report, October 26). The Tory party high-flyers are being sent on courses to learn how to dress (report, November 4). No further comment would seem necessary.

Yours faithfully,
GLENIS M. WRIGHT,
10 Leabrook Close,
Clifton Village, Nottingham.

Royal command?

From Mr Harold Ingham

Sir, It is rumoured ("Dover sale halted after royal appeal", later editions, November 2) that the Queen Mother has saved Dover from privatisation. Does she like railways?

Yours sincerely,
HAROLD INGHAM,
4 Christ Church Avenue,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
November 3.

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0171 782 7828

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NEW HOMES

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NEWS

MPs feel chill of rules on earnings

Companies are already discarding MPs as advisers because they feel they are no longer worth the money now that Parliament has adopted new rules on members' outside earnings.

But as many Conservatives came to terms with their falling value in the commercial world, others were thinking of ways round the rules or even threatening to defy them. Page 1

Arms-to-Iraq convictions quashed

The Government was pitched into a second damaging arms-to-Iraq controversy after the Court of Appeal quashed the convictions of four businessmen because vital documents had been withheld from the defence. Lord Taylor of Gossforth, the Lord Chief Justice, ruled that they had been prevented from mounting a proper defence at their trial in 1992. Page 1

Hockney's view

The artist David Hockney criticised the laws that led to Julia Somerville, the ITN newsreader, and her partner being arrested over pictures of a child taken in the bath. Page 1

Barker's Booker

Pat Barker unexpectedly beat off Salman Rushdie, the hot favourite with the bookmakers, to win the 1995 Booker Prize for *The Ghost Road*, a story about death and sex in the trenches. Page 1

Divorce reform

Divorcing couples will not be forced into mediation under government proposals to reform the divorce laws. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said. Page 2

Editor's inquest

The inquest into the death of Michael VerMeulen, 38, Editor of *GQ*, the men's magazine, was told that he died from a massive overdose of cocaine. Page 3

Shampoo scare

The sale of shampoos and lotions containing a widely used chemical to treat head lice is to be restricted because of fears that it may cause cancer. Page 4

West's 'pact'

Rosemary West agreed a pact with her husband that he would take all the blame for their crimes, Winchester Crown Court was told. Page 5

Scientists on the trail of wine cheats

Scientists at Harwell nuclear research centre are using the world's most sensitive analytical instrument to unmask wines that pretend to be what they are not. It picks up tiny traces of metals from the soil to identify a wine's origins. The team has been surprised at the huge differences between Chianti and Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon. Page 4

MoD criticised

MPs criticised the Ministry of Defence for failing to take Gulf War Syndrome more seriously and demanded an independent health study of veterans from the 1991 conflict. Page 6

Rape admission

One of three American servicemen who went on trial in Japan admitted raping a 12-year-old girl while his two companions denied rape but admitted abduction and sex in the trenches. Page 10

Problem summit

John Major headed for Auckland and a Commonwealth summit likely to be dominated by democracy in member countries and French nuclear tests. Page 10

French reshuffle

Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, ordered a surprise Cabinet reshuffle as President Chirac sought to breathe fresh vigour into his flagging presidency and economic reforms. Page 12

Exile's return

Parliament in Rome agreed in principle to allow the heir to the Italian throne to return from nearly 50 years in exile. Page 12

Likud accused

Leah Rabin, widow of the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister, accused the opposition Likud Party of creating the climate of tension which led to the death of her husband. Page 13



The rock star Eric Clapton leaving Buckingham Palace yesterday after being appointed OBE by the Prince of Wales

BUSINESS

Water: Lyonnaise des Eaux will cut water prices by 15 per cent over six years if its bid for Northumbrian Water succeeds. Page 25

Mark & Spencer: Marks & Spencer issued a cautionary note on autumn profits as it unveiled half-year profits up 9 per cent to £385 million. Page 25

Marshall: Sir Colin Marshall is to become the non-executive chairman of Incheape after announcing last week he was stepping down as executive chairman of British Airways. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 7.6 points to close at 3522.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 94.3 to 94.2 after a fall from \$1.5798 to \$1.5782 but a rise from DM2.2338 to DM2.2355. Page 28

SPORT

Football: Uncapped Trevor Sinclair, of Queens Park Rangers, was included in the England squad for the match against Switzerland next week. Page 48

Rugby Union: Saracens jumped from being the poor relations of the English first division to one of the wealthiest with the injection of £2.5 million. Page 48

Crickets: Devon Malcolm produced some fiery bowling in the nets at Kimberley to earn praise from the England manager, Raymond Illingworth. Page 46

Racing: Vintage Crop, the Irish challenger, finished third in the Melbourne Cup, which was won by Dorianus. Double Trigger, the English hope, was seventeenth in the 21-strong field. Page 45

ARTS

Julie on Broadway: Julie Andrews' return to Broadway in *Victor/Victoria* is the commercial hit of this autumn in New York; however, Terrence McNally's new play about Maria Callas wins Benedict Nightingale's superlatives. Page 36

After Star: What does English National Opera do after the resignation of Sian Edwards, its young music director? Page 37

Mr Populist: Terry Farrell, the target from sniping by other architects for his unashamed populism, answers criticism in the form of a new exhibition. Page 37

Dancing youths: The BT Dance '95 initiative has showcased some of the liveliest young dancers in the country. Page 38

FASHION

American frocks: How spare can a collection be? How understated can a designer become without losing his or her identity? Iain R. Webb on "Spare Chic", all the rage on Seventh Avenue, New York. Page 14

Home alone: Julia Llewellyn Smith talks to Lady Hannam, wife of Sir John Hannam, the member for Exeter, on the life of the Tory wife. Page 15

Brenda Maddox: "It is easy to find people in Hong Kong full of optimism that nothing much will change after the big day. But none are journalists." Page 23

High hopes: Run-down tower blocks, once the symbol of a failed housing policy, are being given a fresh lease of life. Rachel Kelly reports. Page 21

Shimon Peres must persuade citizens to take the further risks of a peace policy that was already visibly straining Yitzhak Rabin's demonstrated political powers. Page 19

It is painfully clear that the margin between the two sides in Quebec was as close as it was in part due to some creative counting by election officials. Page 17

TOMORROW

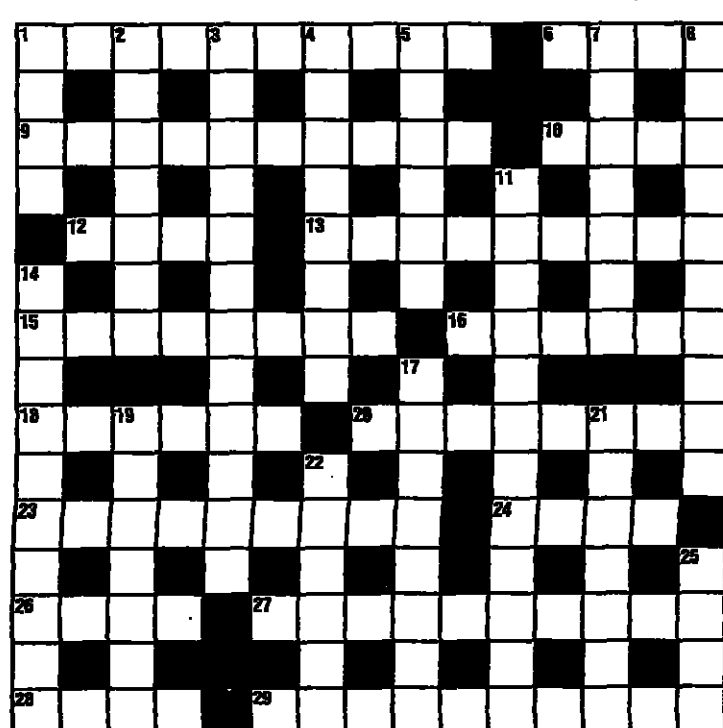
IN THE TIMES

FILMS
What is that nice Patrick Swayze doing in a tiara, necklace and 1950s ball gown?

BOOKS
Mark Steyn on *Fight & Kick & Bite*, the life and work of Dennis Potter



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,007



ACROSS

- A bit of a bore with money for wine (10).
- Lead of whom a member must follow? (4).
- Piece of harness that'll make better profit sooner or later (10).
- Garment is wrapped around artist's back (4).
- To sell drugs illegally is offensive (4).
- Might it contain tort's head, and hair also? (6,3).
- Exposed liberal to public (4,4).
- Tree damaged, caught by wings of powerful bird (6).
- Heart led by opponents at bridge — play another (6).
- Within a short time, investment appears ill-judged (8).
- No leniency here — for those involved with racketeers? (4,5).
- Provide information linking gang-leader to offence (4).

DOWN

- Firm doctor appears to get shock under control (4).
- Silver ring on sea-bed (7).
- Book that's witty about pop music (8,4).
- Record organ part (8).
- Home established and superficially decorated (6).
- Moorish cover girl (7).
- Blunt rib and paper without writing (5-5).
- Favour including as weight valuable piece of basalt (7,5).
- Valentine card given after piece of music's heard (10).
- Teacher putting mark one point up (8).
- Box around ring, only to be laid out on canvas later? (7).
- Small ruler used in making letters (7).
- Champ taken round one European city (6).
- Goose put in inferior oven without any stuffing (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,006

DELETE FLETCHER

U A S A R O E
S A C R I F I C E A V A I L
T O G G L E G A
G R E E N O P E N D A Y
A R I M O N S
R I N S E I S O T H E R M
T C N I I D
M A G E R A T E S A B L E
U N I T S L A P
N A G G E R F O U N C E
H L A R E R S
E A G L E C H E R I S H E D
S O M E S O U T A S E
S O M E H O P E E N D E A R

This National Final puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 86% of contestants.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
West Surrey/Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
East Devon/Sussex/Herts	704
West Devon/Sussex/Herts	705
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West Devon/Sussex/Herts	707
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West Devon/Sussex/Herts	727
West Devon/Sussex/Herts	728
West Devon/Sussex/Herts	729
West Devon/Sussex/Herts	730

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Aberdeen, 16C (61F); lowest day temp: Caen, 5C (41F); highest night temp: Salsburgh, 0.9C (33.6F); lowest night temp: Aberdeen, 4.4C (40F).

FORECAST

General: cloudy with showers. Central and southern parts of England and Wales will be mainly dry except for a little drizzle near the west coast. There will be some brighter intervals but on the whole it will be cloudy. Northern parts will be cloudy, with rain arriving in the evening.

A band of rain will affect Scotland and Northern Ireland for much of the day, and it will be persistent at times in the west. Later in the afternoon northern parts will clear up but showers will remain.

It will be a reasonably mild day, turning colder in the north later.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N: fine but cloudy. Wind west to southwest, light. Max 13C (55F).

SW England, S Wales: cloudy.

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, NE England: mainly cloudy. Some rain in evening. Wind west to southwest, light. Max 14C (57F).

Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: outbreaks of rain. Wind southwest becoming west to northwest, light or moderate. Max 13C (55F).

Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: rain followed by clearer conditions with showers. Wind west to northwest, moderate, occasionally fresh. Max 12C (54F).

Outlook: rain clearing southern parts to give bright spells and showers. Turning colder

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
Aberdeen	4.4	15	61	b	10	5.5
Anglesey	0.0	0.02	13	55	12	5.4
Armagh	1.2	12	57	c	14	5.0
Ayr	0.7	0.01	14	57	10	5.0
Belfast	0.4	13	55	c	13	5.5
Birmingham	1.2	12	57	c	14	5.0
Bristol	0.2	11	52	c	13	5.0
Buckingham	0.4	13	55	c	14	5.0
Cardiff	0.5	13	55	c	14	5.0
Cardigan	0.5	13	55	c	14	5.0
Cardiff	0.5	13	55	c	14	5.0
Cardigan	0.5	13	55	c	14	5.0
Cardiff	0.5	13	55	c	14	5.0
Cardigan	0.5	13	55	c	14	5.0
Cardiff	0.5	13	55	c	14	5.0
Cardigan	0.5	13	55	c	14	5.0
Cardiff	0.5	13	55	c	14	5.0
Cardigan	0.5	13	55	c	14	5.0

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London	Edinburgh	£58
London	Glasgow	£58

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Phone Air UK on 0345 666777 or contact your travel agent. All major credit cards accepted. Subject to availability and airport tax. Restrictions apply.

Preview: Something awful this way comes — at least that is what the viewer expects in *The Real Holiday Show* (Channel 4, 8.30pm). Review: Matthew Bond consoles himself with the empty car parks in *Chris Petit's Death of a Bank Manager*. Page 41

Life after Nolan

The quid pro quo for banning paid advocacy in Parliament must be an urgent review of MPs' salaries, which have fallen well behind comparable salaries elsewhere and past parliamentary pay. Page 11

Winter discontents

If President Chirac of France can see sense, he will seek to delay the least urgent of his objectives: the single currency. Page 17

The commentator and I

Savoy may now be in the Fourth Division so far as the monetary league goes, but things seem to be looking up for the embattled House. Page 17

SIMON JENKINS

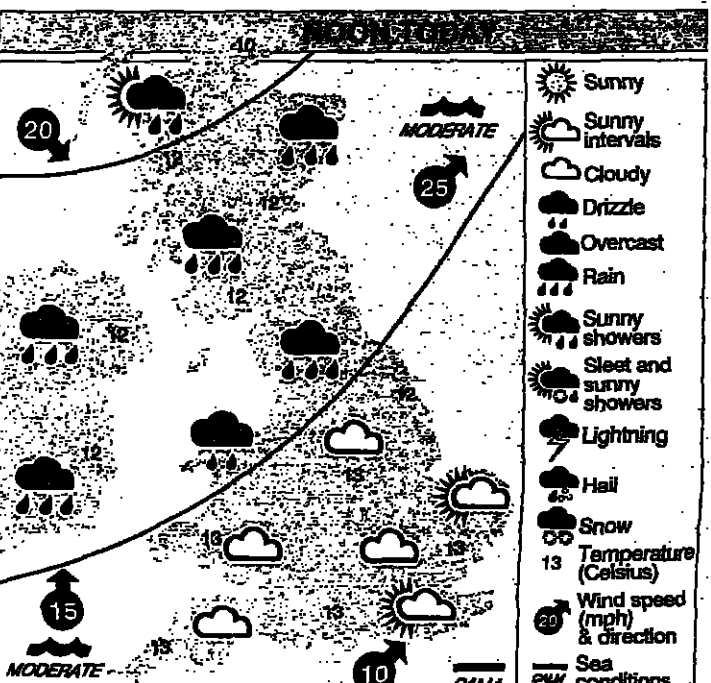
A deliberative chamber without advocates is a game of charades. MPs should be paid by any company, trade union, lobbyist or good cause they like. They should be free to earn as much as they can in the open market, and use the Commons as their forum. Page 16

JACK STRAW

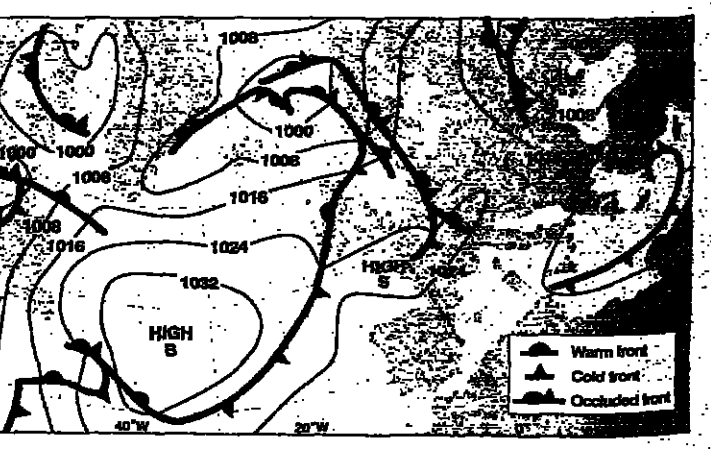
In return for action to deal with unemployment, to give young people a guarantee of a job or training, to tackle homelessness and to provide proper treatment facilities for drug and alcohol abusers, I have argued that the community should expect responsible behaviour from all. Page 16

Sir Peter Stallard, former Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man; Philip Rawson, writer and artist; Alexander Ogston, 'provider of high octane fuel for Battle of Britain fighters'; Sir Michael Higgs, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, 1950-55. Page 19

Assassination of Rabin; Budget tax changes; photographs of children; organ transplants; school funding. Page 17



Changes to chart below from noon: high S will slip south and decline; high B will extend north with little change in surface pressure



HOURS OF DARKNESS

Location	Today	Tomorrow
London	4:23 pm to 7:07 am	4:23 pm to 7:07 am
Edinburgh	4:19 pm to 7:35 am	4:19 pm to 7:35 am
Glasgow	4:24 pm to 7:22 am	4:24 pm to 7:22 am
Cardiff	4:40 pm to 7:06 am	4:40 pm to 7:06 am
Belfast	4:52 pm to 6:54 am	4:52 pm to 6:54 am

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Land bid

M&S give on autumn despite price

Port in



PROPERTY 30

A miller's tale: My nightmare became a labour of love



ARTS 36-38

Zoe Caldwell brings Callas to life on Broadway



SPORT 43-48

Wasim pledges to redeem Pakistan's cricket

TELEVISION AND RADIO GUIDE
Pages 46,47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 1995

Lang clears Lyonnaise bid for Northumbrian

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

WATER company shares surged on the stock market after Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, permitted a proposed takeover of Northumbrian Water by Lyonnaise des Eaux.

Investors suggested the terms were lax enough to encourage bids for other water companies. The Labour Party said they put shareholders before customers.

Northumbrian itself gained 60p, or 6.5 per cent, to £10.74. Analysts now expect a higher bid to emerge from talks that Northumbrian's board has agreed to hold with Lyonnaise early next week. Several other potential bid candidates rose in sympathy: Yorkshire by 20p, Thames by 20p and Anglian by 12p.

Under the agreement negotiated by Ian Byatt, Director General of Water Services, Lyonnaise's North East Water and Northumbrian combined would have to cut drinking water prices by 15 per cent over six years, relative to price limits set last year. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission said on Mr Byatt's advice, that the merger should not go ahead without savings of "at least 15-20 per cent" by the end of the century.

Sewerage charges, which account for more than half of most household bills, will not be affected. Water price cuts will also come late in the period. They would hardly fall in the first two years and by only around 10 per cent after four. For the first two years, bills in the North East would be less than £1 a year lower than under existing limits.

These cuts are not believed to be significantly more than Northumbrian would have offered its customers on its own. The company cut operating costs by 6.7 per cent last year and is expected tomorrow to unveil further cuts beyond



David Cranston, chief executive, left, with Sir Frederick Holliday, the chairman, said the price cuts were modest

those required by Ofwat. Northumbrian planned to share these cuts between customers and shareholders. Lyonnaise also agreed to seek a quote for its British water interests within ten years. These include Essex and Suffolk Water. Lyonnaise must also not seek to control any other water companies.

David Cranston, Northumbrian chief executive, expressed surprise that the French water and construction

group had negotiated such modest price cuts. He said: "The quality of their negotiating skill is clearly very high". Margaret Beckett, Shadow Trade Secretary, called the price cuts feeble. She said: "As we have seen in the electricity industry, the Government is content to stand by and watch the piecemeal restructuring of the water industry without paying any attention to the interests of customers or to the interests of the regions involved and in default of their own stated policy".

But Ofwat argued that the agreement was realistic. Mr Byatt said it would ensure that customers benefited from a merger. He does not expect the deal to result in a spate of takeovers like those for regional electricity companies.

Lyonnaise said the price cuts were the biggest yet required for a water merger and were severe.

Sir Frederick Holliday, Pennington, page 27

Northumbrian's chairman, who has emphasised the company's special role in the North East region, said the water group was still confident of its prospects as an independent company. After Mr Lang's ruling, however, Northumbrian is thought more likely to try to achieve the highest possible price for shareholders, than to seek to remain independent.

Pennington, page 27

MPs voice doubts on supervisory role of Bank

BY PATRICIA TEHAN AND ROBERT MILLER

CONSIDERABLE doubts have been raised about the effectiveness of the Bank of England in supervising UK banks after the collapse of Barings earlier this year.

A cross-party committee of MPs has called on the Treasury to review the role of the Bank as prudential supervisor of banking institutions and wants sufficient funds provided to enable the Bank to get banking supervision right.

After a 22-month investigation into the regulation of financial services in the UK, the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee report published yesterday made some damning criticisms of the Bank's role in the collapse of Barings. The Board of Banking Supervision's report into the Barings failure, it said, had raised doubts about its effectiveness. The MPs said: "We are dismayed that the Governor can, on the one hand, claim that London is one of the best-regulated and supervised markets in the world and, on the other, have to concede that his supervisory staff actually have little real understanding of what its charges are up to."

A spokesman for the Bank said it did not agree that Eddie George, the Governor, "had conceded that".

But MPs were divided over how far the changes should go. Mike O'Brien, Labour MP for Warwickshire North, was the only MP not to sign up to the report. He believed "that statutory regulation is the only way to police the financial services industry. In particular, he said: "The Bank of England has to substantially improve its performance or accept that under a Labour government it is likely that we would look at a new Banking Commission. This would be

more effective and independent than the present Bank structure, which appears to be an old boys' network with far too cosy a relationship with those it is supposed to regulate. What we want is a more hands-on but arms-length relationship between the Bank and its charges."

Sir Tom Arnold, the chairman, said the committee was not yet going so far as to call for a separation of the Bank's supervisory and monetary authority roles. He said the committee had called for a House of Commons debate on the circumstances of the Barings collapse, which if agreed would also discuss banking supervision.

The firmest recommendation of the report was that lending should be covered by the Financial Services Act. Sir Tom added that MPs also wanted to see "a single authority ultimately capable of knocking heads together and enforcing co-operation between regulators" and recommended that ministerial responsibilities under the Act be transferred to the Treasury.



Arnold: one authority plea

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3522.4	(+7.6)
Yield	4.02%	
FT-SE A All share	1731.25	(+3.18)
Nikkei	18021.22	(+15.75)
New York		
Dow Jones	4807.14	(-6.87)
S&P Composite	586.67	(-1.79)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/2%	(5 1/2%)
Long Bond	107 1/2%	(107 1/2%)
Yield	6.30%	(6.29%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6 1/2%	(6 1/2%)
Life long gilt		
Future (Dec)	107%	(107%)

STERLING

New York	1.5780*	(1.5804)
S		
London	1.5790	(1.5791)
DM	2.2267	(2.2267)
FF	7.7185	(7.7435)
Sfr	1.7989	(1.7994)
Yen	162.46	(162.44)
S Index	82.2	(82.3)

DOLLAR

London	1.4170*	(1.4130)
DM	4.8800*	(4.8918)
FF	1.1383*	(1.1375)
Sfr	103.19*	(103.35)
S Index	82.2	(82.3)

Tokyo close Yen 103.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$16.25	(\$16.25)
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GOLD

London close	\$384.45	(\$382.25)
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* denotes midday trading price

Just the job

WH Smith, the high street retail chain, is to draw local shop staff only from JobCentres under a new agreement with the Government announced yesterday. Service personnel are to be recruited in a similar way for the Ministry of Defence. In a third deal, Reed, the employment agency, announces today it is halving its placement fees for long-term unemployed. Page 26

Liquidity

Anglian Water has promised to spend an extra £15 million on environmental and drought measures. Page 31

M&S gives warning on autumn sales despite profits rise

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

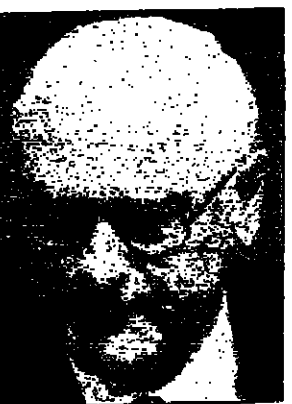
MARKS & SPENCER issued a cautionary note on autumn sales, as it unveiled half-year profits up 9 per cent to £385 million yesterday.

Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman, said that clothing sales in August, September and October were down on last year's level, although figures had improved in recent weeks after the arrival of the cold weather.

The half-year figures were boosted by an impressive contribution from M&S's financial services arm, where profits rose 45 per cent to £26 million, and internationally, where turnover increased 20 per cent to £182 million.

Food sales increased 5.9 per cent to £1.15 billion, while total turnover increased 5.7 per cent to £3.2 billion. But M&S's performance in areas of traditional strength, such as knitwear and underwear, was less impressive. Clothing sales rose just 2.7 per cent on the same period last year.

The company faces continuing problems with Brooks Brothers, its American subsidiary, which made a loss of £2.5



Greenbury: cautious note

Inchcape job for BA chief

SIR Colin Marshall is to become the non-executive chairman of Inchcape, after announcing last week he was stepping down as chairman of British Airways (Marianne Curphy writes).

He joined Inchcape's board yesterday as non-executive director and will take up the part-time chairmanship from January 1 when the current chairman, Sir David Plastow, retires. The post, which will occupy him for up to two days a week, carries a salary of £200,000 with no options or bonuses attached.

Sir Colin, who will be 62 this month, is initially on a two-year fixed contract but is expected to stay with the company for five years.

Charles Mackay, 55, Inchcape's chief executive and deputy chairman and a non-executive director of BA since 1993, said he would be leaving the BA board when his contract expires next June "to avoid a conflict of interest".

Pennington, page 27.

Confidence is at three-year low, says IoD survey

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS confidence is at a three-year low, with political uncertainty the single largest factor pushing it down — according to evidence today from the Institute of Directors.

The IoD said that the gloomy findings of its latest survey of business opinion suggested that the Government now has less room in the Budget for tax cuts and that, if there were further signs of weakening in the economy, interest rates should be cut.

The IoD's latest bi-monthly business opinion survey confirms a slowdown in the economy, after weak manufacturing figures earlier this week and gloomy results from the Confederation of British Industry's quarterly study.

The balance of those more optimistic against those less optimistic about the UK economy is, for the first time since Britain's exit from the European exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992, now negative — falling rather than just falling back. Although the proportion of directors more optimistic about the economy in October stayed at its August

level of 28 per cent, the proportion less confident grew to 30 per cent, giving a negative balance of -2 per cent.

Political uncertainty is seen as the principal factor diminishing confidence, the IoD says, with 34 per cent of directors surveyed citing it as the main problem, followed by a third mentioning the level of economic growth in the UK.

The fall in confidence comes against a background of weakening output intentions, business volumes and profits. The proportion of directors reporting increased business fell from 68 per cent to 62, while the number recording rising profits fell by ten percentage points to 52 per cent.

Forty-four per cent of directors say they plan to increase output in the next three months — against 50 per cent in August and 56 per cent in June.

Ruth Lea, IoD policy head, says: "The Chancellor should make bold spending cuts to finance the tax cuts business needs, and if there are further signs of weakening in the economy, he should not hesitate to cut interest rates."

Port in the soup over split lentil dispute

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

A FAMILY-OWNED London food importer will challenge in the High Court today the Port of Felixstowe's right to restrain £100,000 worth of the importer's cargo of split lentils to offset debts incurred by a failed shipper.

Legal advisers to A Poortman, a company with an annual turnover of £12 million, consider that Felixstowe, part of the corporate empire of Li Ka-shing, the Hong Kong billionaire, is

being wholly unfair in seeking to exercise lien over a cargo that the importer had paid for and whose freight charges were also paid.

The dispute began in mid-September, when Euronave, a shipping company based in the Belgian port of Antwerp, went into liquidation. One of the company's vessels, the MV Eurotrader, carried Poortman's 500 tonnes of lentils from Turkey to Felixstowe in 24 containers.

The restraint of the cargo by the

operator of Britain's biggest container port is a serious financial problem for Poortman, which considers that the firm has a legal and moral right to goods for which it had paid in full.

But Peter Bennett, deputy managing director of Felixstowe, said that his company was simply exercising its legal rights under the terms and conditions of the port, which were familiar to all those who used it.

Under these the port claims the right to offset the value of the goods

restrained against debts, running into tens of thousands of pounds, incurred by Euronave. Mr Bennett said that his company had acted carefully on legal advice throughout and that there was no precedent for the right to exercise lien being upheld in court. The port last took such action in 1985 against United States Lines.

Poortman will today ask the Commercial Court to order the delivery of its lentils by Felixstowe and seek damages for wrongful interference.

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WH Smith makes JobCentre deal on recruitment

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

WH SMITH, the retail chain, is to draw local shop staff only from JobCentres, under a new agreement with the Government announced yesterday.

Service personnel are to be recruited in a similar way for the Ministry of Defence, while in a third deal, Reed, the employment agency, will announce today that it is halving job-placement fees for the long-term unemployed.

Ministers were pleased with the deal on nationwide recruitment — one of the first of its kind — reached with WH Smith.

Under the agreement, local branch managers will recruit staff from JobCentres run by the Government's Employment Service (ES).

The Ministry of Defence has agreed a similar deal. Previously, recruitment to the Services was often carried out

through dedicated local recruitment centres. However, the MoD has now agreed that "first-line recruitment" of about 17,000 people a year will be carried out by the ES as a first sift before potential recruits are then passed on to the ministry.

WH Smith yesterday welcomed the Government's new service guarantee to employers about JobCentre performance. The guarantee, which was drawn up with the Confederation of British Industry, pledges prompt services in ways that Eric Forth, Education and Employment Minister, said would help them to fill their vacancies efficiently, effectively and free of charge.

Launching the new service standards, Mike Fogden, ES chief executive, said that the Government was proud of the job services it offered to em-

ployers. John Gridland, the CBI's human resources policy director, said that he hoped the new guarantee would encourage more employers to use JobCentres and help to play their part in tackling long-term unemployment.

Announcing its move, Reed said that it would halve the fees paid by client employers to the agency when they permanently recruited people who had been involuntarily registered as unemployed for 26 weeks or more.

□ John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, speaking at the University of Wales, in Aberystwyth, said last night that unemployment and insecurity at work had arisen as a "direct outcome" of government policy decisions and not as a result of "immutable economic laws" or changes in the world economy.



Clearer future: Don Greaves, the chief executive of GB Glass, the glass lighting component to tableware group. The company plans to invest £27.4 million at factories in Harworth, Nottinghamshire, and Chesterfield, Derbyshire

BP is being paid for unwanted gas

By Carl Mortished

BRITISH PETROLEUM is rolling up cash payments of \$10 million a quarter from British Gas relating to gas that the utility is not taking under agreements with BP.

The oil company is contracted to supply some 580 million cubic feet a day to British Gas under take-or-pay contracts at an average price of 16p a therm. Ofgas, the gas regulator, recently gave warning that the utility was in danger because of the fall in the gas price and its exposure to take-or-pay contracts. BG has indicated that it wants to renegotiate the contracts.

BP yesterday said that it considered the contracts reasonable, but indicated that it would be prepared to discuss the problem. "They are our biggest customers," John Browne, BP chief executive, said. Under accounting rules, BP cannot book profits on payments for gas not delivered.

The oil company has so far not yet received any request for talks and BG is thought to be waiting to see whether winter weather may reduce

Britain's gas glut. Mr Browne said that the "swing" in BP's gas production between the hottest day of the summer and the cold weather this week amounted to 500 million cubic feet a day.

BP's third-quarter profits were up 28 per cent, to £532 million, but the company gave warning of a temporary downturn in chemicals and continuing low refining margins. Profits from chemicals slipped from £258 million in the second quarter to £225 million, but BP insisted that underlying demand was strong and blamed a rapid rise in stocks earlier in the year by intermediate chemical manufacturers who feared price inflation.

The third-quarter figures came before a £244 million charge for the sale of the Marcus Hook refinery. Mr Browne said that this was the first step in putting BP refineries in a more competitive position.

The third-quarter dividend is maintained at 4p.

Tempus, page 28

National Power bid optimism

By Christine Buckley

NATIONAL POWER, the UK's largest power generator, yesterday said it was optimistic that its bid for Southern Electric would win regulatory approval. With a judgment from the Office of Fair Trading expected soon after November 20, Keith Henry, NP's chief executive, said: "We can see no reason on the ground of competition that we should be referred."

In spite of the Department of Trade and Industry's recent sanctioning of North West Water's bid for Norweb, against OFT advice, there is still a chance NP's bid will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Labour repeated its call that the whole of the electricity industry should be referred to the MMC.

NP yesterday reported that its market share had declined two percentage points to 30 per cent. Pre-tax profits improved 5 per cent to £254 million. The interim dividend was 24 pence up at 5.4p.

Tempus, page 28

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Britain blocks sale of Irish steel plant

BRITAIN has blocked the sale of the Republic of Ireland's only steel plant, insisting the deal, which involves an injection of about £28 million in state aid, would create unfair competition for UK steelmakers and threaten British jobs. A bid to settle the dispute was abandoned after five hours of talks in Brussels involving Tim Eggart, the Industry Minister, Richard Bruton, his Irish counterpart, and the EU Commission. The sale of Cork-based Irish Steel to Ispat International, the Indian group, requires the approval of all 15 EU governments because of the state aid.

The Commission has already given the go-ahead, but Mr Eggart said after the talks: "We cannot agree anything which imperils British jobs and the economic viability of British companies." Irish Steel, which employs 300 workers in Co Cork, has been ailing for years, kept afloat by a series of Irish Government cash lifelines. Its most direct competitor is the British Steel plant in Shelton, near Stoke-on-Trent. Irish Steel could face liquidation because of EU Commission demands for the repayment of loans of £10 million made to it by the Irish Government in 1993.

Limit's profit rises

THE London Insurance Market Investment Trust (Limit), largest of the 21 corporate investors at Lloyd's, has reported pre-tax profit up to just over £6 million (£4.97 million) in the half year to September 30. The return is purely from UK equities: under Lloyd's rules, underwriting profit is not included in accounts for three years. The shares showed little movement, ending at 102.5p. Earnings per share were 1.70p and the net asset value at September 30 was 105.7p a share. A net interim dividend of 1.1p (1.1p) is due on January 26.

New stores lift WEW

WEW GROUP said that opening new outlets had helped the What Everyone Wants discount stores chain to a 25 per cent advance in pre-tax profits, to £4.06 million, in the 53 weeks to August 5. Turnover rose by 11 per cent, to £122 million. However, like-for-like sales fell by 9.4 per cent after a 16 per cent downturn in the final quarter. The final dividend is maintained at 0.35p, giving an unchanged total of 0.7p for the year, from headline earnings of 1.69p (1.63p) a share. Three stores have opened since the year end, making 82.

Norweb directors to go

NORTH WEST WATER yesterday confirmed that Ken Harvey, chairman and chief executive of Norweb, would leave after the takeover of the regional electricity company by its water utility neighbour. The water company also said that Brian Wilson, Norweb's finance director, was to go. Mr Harvey is thought to be in line for a package worth up to £2 million from benefits of the takeover and compensation for his contract which was on a rolling two-year basis. Mr Wilson is likely to receive a smaller sum of about £450,000.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.20	2.04
Austria Sch	16.73	15.23
Belgium Fr	48.96	44.66
Canada \$	2.943	2.083
Cyprus Cyp	0.752	0.687
Denmark Kr	8.27	8.47
Finland Mk	7.29	6.64
France Fr	8.15	7.50
Germany Dm	2.38	2.18
Greece Dr	384.00	358.00
Hong Kong \$	12.84	11.84
Ireland P	1.08	0.95
Israel Sh	5.1700	4.5200
Italy Lira	2615.00	2460.00
Japan Yen	177.00	161.00
Malta	0.885	0.840
Netherlands Gld	2.658	2.428
New Zealand \$	2.55	2.33
Norway Kr	10.46	9.68
Portugal Esc	248.00	227.50
S Africa Rd	rel.	5.41
Spain Pta	198.50	188.50
Sweden Kr	11.20	10.40
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.79
Turkey Lira	rel.	77885.0
USA \$	1.876	1.546

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Century Inns plans further try at listing

CENTURY INNS, the north-east pub operator that abandoned plans to float in February, is to make a fresh attempt to list its shares on the London stock market now that conditions are perceived as "more favourable" (Philip Pangalos writes).

Century, which was formed in November 1991 after a management team bought 185 pubs from Bass, intends to float in mid-December through an offer that is likely to capitalise it at about £55 million. Century hopes to raise about £30 million of new money to greatly reduce debt. N M Rothschild is sponsor to the float; UBS is the broker.

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□ Carlsberg-Tetley on the counter □ Northumbrian poised for a bid □ ACT changes do have repercussions

Short measure from beer barons

□ TRICKY things, percentages, especially in brewing. In ordinary times, when all are keen to boast how much beer they are peddling, a total of the various market shares claimed across the industry can easily reach 130 per cent. But when the beer barons are up against the competition authorities and want to reduce the size of their empires, two and two often barely scrapes to three and a half.

Whoever eventually bids for the misbegotten Carlsberg-Tetley venture, therefore, would rather like to borrow the calculator that Brian Stewart at Scottish & Newcastle used when he put together his business and Courage earlier this year. Then, a combined market share of 33 per cent mysteriously shrank to a smidgeon below the 25 per cent that normally triggers a competition reference.

Carlsberg-Tetley enjoys 17 per cent of the British beer market, according to Allied Domecq, the drinks and pubs group that owns half of it but would really rather be selling Ballantine's scotch these days. There was some squirming yesterday when Allied was quizzed on a leak that it had appointed Goldman Sachs to handle the sale, because the party line is that the business is not up for grabs.

It has certainly been luxuriously buffed up for a sale.

Yesterday's preliminaries from Allied contained £90 million of those catch-all exceptionals that are becoming something of a habit from the big drinks groups. They are meant to cover life's little crises like redundancies and the purchase of overseas drinks distribution chains that some might think are part and parcel of normal trading, but there you are, the accountants allow it, so one-offs they are.

In Allied's case, full £60 million of these went on Carlsberg-Tetley, a lot to spend on a business that managed trading profits of only £47 million last year. Only two things stand in the way of the sale. One is the Danish partner Carlsberg, which has the right of veto.

The second problem is that Tetley's figures, ghastly as they are, are propped up by a soft supply agreement, stretching in one form or another to 1999, that guarantees prices and means Allied's own pubs are subsidising the brewer. Any buyer would be pledged to continue with it, the terms of sale reflecting this. The City would prefer Allied to unwind the deal, take a lower

price for Tetley, and safeguard future profits from pubs.

Those most in need of Scottish arithmetical alchemy are Bass, percentage of the market with Tetley well into uncharted territory in the low 40s, and Whitbread, rising to 30 per cent. Whitbread must be counted the favourite, not least because it would face fewer competition problems. Peter Jarvis, the chief executive, has been enjoying a high profile of late, which generally means something is planned. A deal early next year would restore some of the corporate pride lost when Courage slipped through its hands.

Ian Byatt's French leave

□ The French have driven *une voiture à deux chevaux* straight into the water industry, with more than a little help from the regulator. In July, a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report suggested, as dowry for the hand of Northumbrian, a reduction in the area's water prices of 15 to 20 per cent over a four-year period.



This was based on provisional figures offered up by Ian Byatt, the water regulator, and the best bet was that this was what the French would be required to achieve. The same man then went away to renegotiate terms for the proposed merger based on a cut of just 15 per cent, the bottom end of the target range, and gave Lyonnaise des Eaux an extra two years to achieve them, to boot. Furthermore, those cuts are heavily back-end loaded, in that the reduction in early years is insignificant.

The main results of more than three months of horse trading are that Lyonnaise des Eaux should make a formal bid within days and has rather more financial firepower for one than had

been thought, and that Mr Byatt has provided a template for other bids from French water companies that have outposts within the territory of any of the other nine big quoted water companies in England and Wales.

First the haggling. On the earlier terms, the market had been looking for an agreed price of £11.25p and a hostile offer starting at perhaps £10.50. Those sums are clearly out of date, and analysts, not always the most reliable of forecasters being driven by self-interest, are dreaming of an eventual take-out at £12. Whether this will prove too rich for the French, who must achieve cost savings building up to a total of £20 million a year, remains to be seen.

Now the other bids. Compagnie Générale des Eaux has small colonies in the Thames Water area, while Bouygues is camped out on Southern Water land. Not affected but inclined to take vague encouragement is Hanson, which could do a North West Water/Norweb in reverse on Anglian through its ownership of Eastern Group. The free-for-all in water will not be as

frenetic as in electricity, mainly because of rather tighter price regulation, but it will be enriching for some all the same.

No such thing as a painless cut

□ THE latest Budget rumour has it that the Chancellor is contemplating raising a useful £1 billion or more by slicing five percentage points off the rate of Advanced Corporation Tax (ACT). Although the move would almost fund a one-point cut in the basic tax rate, it would not be the victimless revenue raiser of Kenneth Clarke's daydreams.

The losers would include ten million members of pension schemes, as lower ACT means lower investment returns for pension funds. There would also be an impact on the stock market, as funds moved out of equities into gilts to protect their income. According to Legal & General, the fall in the index would be at least 6 per cent.

Employers would be under pressure to contribute more to schemes to cover the lower

returns. Investors who are higher rate taxpayers would pay extra tax on their dividends.

When a company declares a dividend, it pays ACT to the Treasury. Non-taxpayers, like pension funds, charities and 15 million or so ordinary people, are entitled to reclaim this tax. Under the present rules, if a company pays a gross dividend of £100, £20 of this goes to the Inland Revenue. The pension fund then recovers this tax credit. But if ACT falls to 15 per cent, the tax back shrinks to £15.

Some say that ACT's hideous complexity would hide the potential impact of a decrease, a view supported by the muted and delayed reaction to the last five-point cut in 1993. A more spirited defence from the pension fund industry can be expected if he tries it again.

Board game

□ ONE OF those elegant daisy chains that connect non-executives up and down British industry has unravelled. Sir Colin Marshall is going from British Airways to Inchcape, and the latter's chief executive is leaving the BA board. Charles Mackay denies any conflict of interest, but shareholders could suspect mutual back-scratching which may cause a problem at either company's annual meeting.

Results lift BSKyB shares

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BSKYB yesterday regained some of the share value lost when the Church of England and Methodist Church offloaded their interests in the satellite broadcaster in protest over its launch of the Playboy channel.

The price bounced 16p to 386p after third-quarter trading showed that revenue had jumped 37 per cent to £214 million, fuelled by rises in subscription sales and advertising growth.

Operating costs also advanced sharply with the broadcaster spending more on the coverage of large sporting events, such as the Ryder Cup and world title boxing matches. BSKyB, which is currently in negotiations with the Football Association over its future tie-ups with the Premiership, saw operating costs increase 37 per cent to £148 million for the three months to September 30.

Profit before tax showed a rise of 108 per cent to £51 million over the period. The company continued to be upbeat about prospects, saying that satellite dish sales for October had run ahead of last year's figure and that customers taking all of the 28 channels now available were increasing.

Chairman admits months of uncertainty kept new clients away

Growth hope for MAM

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY Asset Management yesterday said that six months of uncertainty surrounding the ownership of SG Warburg, its former parent, had kept new clients away, but existing clients and staff had been supportive.

SG Warburg was finally bought by Swiss Bank Corporation in the summer and MAM was given its independence. The fund manager reported an 11.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £63.6 million for the first half year to September 30.

The figures were affected by a £35 million credit from Warburg as part of a scheme of arrangement, balanced by the £35 million exceptional costs of the scheme and provisions for expenses related to the transition to full independence.

Hugh Stevenson, MAM's chairman, said that he was, in the circumstances, "quite pleased with the figures".

Funds under management increased to £70.9 billion, from £63.5 billion, at March 31. The increase was mostly due to higher market values. The figure includes net new business of £800 million.

Turnover dipped from £129 million to £128.5 million because of a weak retail market and lower revenue from trans-



Hugh Stevenson is keeping quiet on whether suitors have contacted MAM, and says that it is "open-minded"

action charges. Mr Stevenson said. Operating costs, without exceptionals, were down from £82.2 million to £81.9 million.

Mr Stevenson said that future growth would continue to come from the UK institutional market and added that pension fund assets overseas had increased.

The chairman refused to say whether MAM had received approaches from potential bidders, but described it as "open-minded about things which will create greater value for our shareholders". He said: "The ideal thing for me will be to maintain the earnings growth we have achieved since the company was floated."

There was potential for significant business on the Continent and in Japan, he said.

MAM is to buy, for £11.5 million, the remaining 50 per cent of Potter Warburg Asset Management, in Australia. The firm has £1.4 billion under management.

Brewing problems hurt Allied Domecq

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

PROBLEMS at Carlsberg-Tetley, the brewer, hit profits at Allied Domecq, the drinks and retail company. They fell 20 per cent to £494 million (See Pennington, this page).

Allied, which owns 50 per cent of Carlsberg-Tetley, announced a £90 million exceptional charge to cover the costs of its restructuring programme, which include the closure of Carlsberg-Tetley's factory at Warrington, Cheshire, with the loss of 500 jobs.

The company wrote off a further £50 million from its substantial disposal programme and saw profits from its Mexican operations fall 20 per cent to £48 million over the fall in value of the peso. Underlying profits, excluding the exceptionals, were in line with City expectations, showing no improvement on last year at £635 million.

The continuing problems at Carlsberg-Tetley increased speculation that Allied will attempt to sell the brewer, although the company refused to make any comment.

Profits at Carlsberg-Tetley fell a further 37 per cent last year, to £47 million, on sales of £1 billion, as the company struggled to adapt to the low-margin take-home market and incurred a £3 million cost to recall beer cans with faulty "widgets".

But Michael Jackman, chairman, remained bullish about Allied's prospects. He said: "We have cleared the decks. We have reshaped the business. We are making good progress in the key areas of our business."

The share price closed the day unchanged at 493p. Investors expressed relief that the dividend was unchanged at 11.8p.

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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

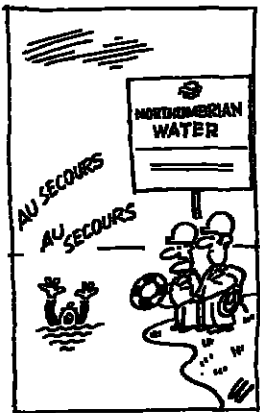
Cut out the paper chains

IF KENNETH CLARKE starts to introduce some whacky ideas on how to save money, don't necessarily blame him. The schemes may have come from submissions made to the third annual Adam Smith Institute "Economy in Government" competition, sponsored by Ernst & Young. William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will reveal the winner from the eight finalists at the Hilton, Park Lane, today.

Suggestions include scrapping the present system of VAT accounting between registered businesses to save £130 million to the taxpayer and £200 million to industry and a plea to cut out the needless duplication of paperwork between employers and the Department of Social Security.

Desired ends

IN CASE you hadn't realised, there is a difference between international financial fraud and organised crime connected with the Mafia or Mob. John Moscow, of the New York County district attorney's office, who is in London attending a three-day symposium on fraud, has the answer. "With the Mob, the cost benefit analysis of any business proposal has to include the possibility of murder in the calculation to achieve the desired business ends."



"He's either French or he thinks we've been taken over"

Dressed to steal

THE STATE of New Jersey has been hit by a spate of successful bank "heists" by a pair of shotgun-wielding professionals disguised as Amishes, the religious Pennsylvania farmers who abhor physical violence and modern technology. Dressed in tall black hats, collarless shirts and false beards, they have stolen about \$250,000 in eight robberies (the average bank robber gets away with \$2,000). Their disguise does not appear to extend to using a pony and trap for the getaway.

Winterflood trust

BRIAN WINTERFLOOD, the affable head of Winterflood Securities, will be raising his glass at a reception at the City of London club tomorrow with justified pride. Reminded, the trust of which he is vice-president, is 21 years old, and Prince Michael of Kent will be there to present a cheque towards research at Liverpool University into Parkinson's disease.

Long's flight

MIKE LONG, stockbroker at Hambros Equities, whose snappy suits, be-whiskered face, diamond tie pin, fobwatch and chain make him one of the City's snappiest of dressers, has finally enjoyed a sixtieth birthday present to which countless City colleagues contributed — a hot air balloon ride. At the weekend that he and wife Sue took the flight, the basket came down in the grounds of one irate country gentleman, whom Long placated with a bottle of champagne. Savile Row will be shocked to hear that Long wore tracksuit trousers and an anorak for his treat.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Watchdogs led towards peace in the financial services pack

Robert Miller on moves to renew the faith of a disgruntled investing public

City watchdogs may bark louder than they used to but are still not loud enough for MPs. Nor is the public inspired by the very system put in place to provide them with better protection against rogues. In publishing its sixth report on financial services regulation in the UK, the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee yesterday achieved a broad political consensus on what it sees as the way forward. Committee members have made clear that they wish to see many of their recommendations acted on expeditiously. Tighter controls on the derivatives market and proper risk management at one end of the scale and the possibility of individual regulatory contracts between every adviser, whether independent or tied to a large life office, at the other end are among the recommendations.

To emphasise their serious mood, MPs will summon regulators in general, and, in particular, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City regulator, for regular progress reports.

Members of parliamentary committees, and especially those who chair them, must always have an eye to the wider political stage. For a Conservative-dominated committee to demand wide-sweeping changes to any piece of legislation, let alone one as complex as the Financial Services Act (FSA) 1986, adds to the Government's problems. In addition, the Parliamentary timetable is so packed that new primary legislation is not a realistic starter, for the time being at least.

Conceived in haste during the 1980s, the FSA was put in place at a time when stock markets were booming, the only way for house prices to go was up, and the trillion-dollar derivatives and foreign exchange markets were in their infancy. The FSA has proved to be incomprehensible, its true meanings so vague that various legal challenges have cost well over £1 million. And who foots the bill? The investing public.

As the Commons committee points out, the total cost of regulation comes out at £75.9 million in the current financial year, compared with £61.9 million in 1990-91.

Any new system as complex and diverse as financial services regulation was bound to have teething problems. These have proved to be a series of scandals, such as the collapse of BCCI, the long-running saga of the Knight Williams Group, the spectacular £860 million crash of Barings, Lloyd's of London losses, the mis-selling of unsuitable home income plans to elderly investors, many of whom have died without receiving due compensation, and, perhaps the most damaging, the £4 billion personal pensions scandal. Even those not affected directly are aware of them and the financial services industry



Collette Bowe, chief executive of the PIA, and, clockwise from top, Mick Newmarch, Andrew Large, George Staple, Eddie George and Mike Blackburn, leading protagonists in the changing financial services industry

has fallen into disrepute. The saddest consequence is that millions of people have put off making investment decisions, particularly in relation to their retirement, that could have a serious effect on their later lives.

Many of the earlier failures could be laid at the door of the old-style regulators such as Fimbra, for independent advisers, and Lauro, for the life and unit trust companies. Lauro grasped the nettle early on and achieved a formidable reputation through its fining of some of the leading life companies in the business: Norwich Union, twice (£50,000 and £300,000), Legal & General (£180,000) and Commercial Union (£105,000), to name but a few. Fimbra was always going to have a harder job policing independent financial advisers because of the disparity of its base.

As discontent about the cost and complexity of regulation grew in the early 1990s, so the changes began to take place, piecemeal at first, then rather more wholesale. Fimbra and Lauro were swept away and replaced by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) last year. But the PIA got off to a shaky start; the same committee that reported yesterday had last year expressed grave doubts as to whether it

would ever be an effective watchdog. It was stalled by the personal and vehement opposition of just one man, Mick Newmarch, then chief executive of the Prudential. He passionately espoused a US-style statutory regulator such as the Securities and Exchange Commission.

He failed to carry anyone with him, although for a while in the summer last year it looked as if the Halifax Building Society, headed by Mike Blackburn, might throw in its lot with the Prudential, which is now regulated in rather splendid isolation by the SIB. One of yesterday's recommendations is that the SIB stop regulating firms directly.

The fact that there is a strong feeling within the Labour Party that statutory regulation might be the only way forward in the end should not be seen as a sign that Mr Newmarch and the Opposition were at one on this point. It is more a case of arriving at the same conclusion by totally different routes and for completely different reasons.

On the wholesale markets, this has left the Intermediaries and Managers Regulatory Organisation (Imro) regulating fund managers and the Securities

and Futures Authority (SFA) looking after brokers and futures dealers. Of these two and the SIB, the committee said that they must improve their relationship, and that in-fighting among regulators and "the jostling for position in any potential new structure is not helping to enhance the public perception of the regulatory system" nor adding to investor protection.

As part of its overall view of the FSA, the select committee referred, in passing, to the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), headed by George Staple. It noted "substantial public concern" at the SFO's performance, adding: "This relates not only to the effectiveness in convicting fraudsters but also to the appropriateness of the convictions that it is able to secure." This is believed to refer to the Levitt case.

So often in the past, reform and better investor protection have been delayed because of self-interest and political in-fighting within the industry. The select committee has shown that there can be a way forward without wholesale changes in legislation, provided that those concerned co-operate. If they do not heed that clear warning, they could find that the resultant statutory regime makes the FSA look positively benign.

Forget the Budget, watch base rates

Cheaper loans in 1996 are likelier than a tax giveaway now, says Janet Bush

It may seem like heresy, but it is not completely irrational to suggest that the Budget is likely to be an economic irrelevance. The potential significance of whatever package the Chancellor produces on November 28 is overwhelmingly political and, even then, may not have long-lasting positive consequences for the Government.

Reports are being bandied about that Mr Clarke has been triumphant in securing genuine spending cuts and that he will be able to cut taxes by more than the £2 billion to £3 billion that the City consensus would have. Further speculation has it that he could announce tax cuts of £8 billion over three years, offering a fiscal carrot to a sceptical electorate well beyond the Government's election deadline of spring 1997.

These rumours were seen by some as proof that this will be a more generous Budget than many thought would be possible. Others — Michael Saunders, of Salomon Brothers, included —

on the matter after economic data that have confirmed the slow-down in growth and an easing in price pressures. Survey evidence — in that significant tax cuts that are not backed by similar cuts in public spending are unlikely; Mr Clarke will not want, while pleasing Conservative backbenchers, to risk his reputation in the markets as a surprisingly prudent Chancellor. The Government's fiscal position, already very tough, is likely to remain tight — for all the hype.

With the economy palpably slowing and inflationary pressures easing, the more relevant economic question is when the Government will cut interest rates. Market guesswork is that a rate cut is coming, probably early next year. This would have the advantage of pre-empting the annual round of mortgage fixing. It is also conceivable that the Government could move earlier, cutting rates at the December 13 monetary meeting, contingent, of course, on a positive appraisal of the Budget by the financial markets.

Will the Bank of England including the Confederation of British Industry and purchasing managers' surveys — point to lower prices. Input price inflation has eased back, and output prices will soon follow.

There is one unfortunate side-effect for inflation in the National Grid rebate, which will artificially depress inflation early next year but inflate it again in spring 1997, just before the election. This may be politically uncomfortable for the Government, but it should not affect Bank of England advice, which, as the Bank continually emphasises, is based on where inflation is likely to be two years out.

So, a Budget that is superficially attractive but broadly prudent is not likely to move Mr George. And it is conceivable that even the Bank may today admit that the Government will hit its inflation target. The wind is set fair for lower base rates in the spring.

6 Kenneth Clarke will not want to risk his reputation as a surprisingly prudent Chancellor

Tom Benyon champions small investors

Why the parties need to woo Sid

In the mid-Eighties, voters were persuaded by advertising campaigns to invest their savings, traditionally held in building society and bank accounts, into equities. The Thatcher Government thought that widely spreading wealth creation was not only good for the country, it would also attract long-term Tory voters as well. But now the worm has turned. A growing number of investors think that they have been ignored by the Government in favour of the institutions — the Tory's natural allies — and they are selling up. They believe that when the moneymen have made their fat fees and the politicians their headlines, they have been either patronised or plain ignored.

As party managers seek formulas to convince voters that they are worth electing, they might focus on moves designed to encourage the disenfranchised investor. What has gone wrong? For a start, the investor has been denied rights comparable to those given to institutions. The Government also appears to listen too much to the Stock Exchange, and forums, such as Crest and the Weinberg committee, comprised mainly of institutional representatives. Institutions are encouraged to be passive investors under the current proxy systems, the net effect of which, as seen at the British Gas annual meeting last May, has remarkable similarities to the trade union block vote that the Tories campaigned vigorously against. As small shareholders gaze at the priorities of many company managers, they are angered at the sight. The bosses appear to be busier plotting how to trouser inflated sala-



The Sid campaign persuaded millions to buy shares

ries, rolling contracts, option schemes, bonuses and, now we learn, grossly funded pensions, then looking to their duties.

Most institutions show no real interest, even by attending AGMs. They are, of course, briefed privately at meetings where Sid is excluded. In spite of their privileges, the institutions do not use their muscle, as they supplant the private investor, institutional involvement and influence over directors appears to be passive and acquiescent. AGMs have turned into meaningless charades with the use of faceless proxies. Nowadays, AGMs only benefit the spin-doctors who earn a handsome living ... from company money; the prime role of public relations officers is to ensure that the meetings are so organised that the directors, their paymasters, remain

unaccountable to the people whose money it really is. Any political party seeking to encourage small investor interests and support by initiating overdue reforms will win, and deserve to, valuable political backing.

The advantages of encouraging the smaller investor are not just political. Smaller shareholders tend to be more active, longer term, and more loyal to companies.

So what should political parties do to win small shareholder support? Help should come in two ways. First, in tax changes. The tax-credit system should continue except for private, non-institutional holdings, where the dividend should be paid in full. The first £2,000 of dividend and investment income should be tax-free. Transfer tax on share purchases for private investor purchases should be eliminated. The tax allowance of

£6,000 for capital gains tax should be doubled. Investment clubs should be encouraged by granting tax-free privileges on all capital gains and dividend earnings where the club's funds total up to £100,000 and there are more than 12 subscriber members. All expenses — such as subscriptions to The Guild, newspapers and reasonable office costs should be tax deductible.

Then encouragement should be given to company private investors to unite in a representative body, limited by guarantee, non-profit making and non-taxable. Such a group should be entitled to access rights to company data, identical to those held by institutional shareholders. Next, when 20 per cent of voters join such a body they should have the right to appoint one non-executive director to the company board. These groups should be able to circulate shareholders annually at the company's expense. Then why not disenfranchise non-attending shareholders from voting at AGMs?

The Stock Exchange should be encouraged not to accept effective discrimination against private investors implied by the intended debarment of them from future new issue flotations and placements. And executive options should entail purchases in the market rather than issuing new shares out of authorised unissued capital so that shareholders can gain some indirect benefit from such arrangements.

Sid would vote for the party that supported such changes. The author is chairman of The Guild of Shareholders and was Conservative MP for Abingdon 1979-83

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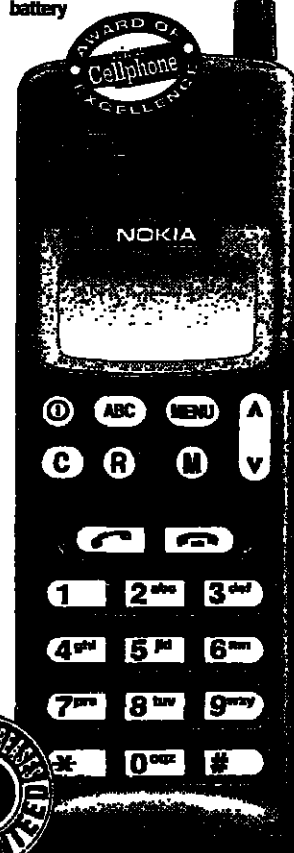
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Buying an old mill may seem like a dream. For one family it became a nightmare and then a labour of love. Ronald Gribble reports

"WE STOOD outside in our pyjamas and watched the mill go up in flames. When the roof fell in we lost everything because our furniture and possessions were stored on the ground floor."

Julian James describes the scene vividly as he remembers how he and his wife, Mandy, and their teenage children, Justin and Tessa, watched helplessly in the darkness, silhouetted in the glow of the fire, as their dreams went up in smoke. It was 3 o'clock on the morning of Sunday, August 23, 1987.

Only three days earlier they had exchanged contracts on the 16th-century watermill and handed over more than £150,000 to the Crown Commissioners for the property.

"The fire chief told his men to forget the mill and to save the millhouse," says Mr James, 52, a personnel director of a construction company. "But we pleaded with him to save the Victorian mill mechanism, which was almost unique." Firemen pumped water from the river and one crew spent the night spraying the equipment.

The light of morning showed that the four walls of the mill remained and that a rear section of the house had been destroyed. Falling brickwork had smashed on to the waterwheel and buckled some of the wrought-iron buckets. Two pairs of millstones had cracked in the heat, and an ancient metal handpump in the house, used to draw water from an underground spring, had melted. But a search among the charred timbers revealed that the firemen had saved the Hurst frame which supported the gears and grinding mechanism.

All the Jameses had left of their personal belongings was in a caravan on site in which they were living while they restored the run-down house, and prepared to open the mill as a working museum and study centre for schools.

The firemen suspected an electrical fault and repair costs were estimated at £200,000, but Mr James believes vandals may have started the fire. They had broken into the mill during the sale negotiations and taken original miller's tools from a locked cupboard. "Fortunately," Mr James says, "some of the most valuable tools were on loan to St Albans Museum at the time and these were saved from the thieves and the fire."

"We had not moved into the millhouse straight away because it had dry rot, wet rot, rising damp, a leaking roof and a flooded cellar. But when the hosepipe supplying water to our caravan froze that November a neighbouring farmer



Julian James takes a tea break from doing a repair on the brickwork and timbers supporting the cast-iron Victorian waterwheel. Right: Redbourn Mill and the millhouse today after restoration



kindly let us rent his old farmhouse for the winter."

Today, after eight years of painstaking restoration by local craftsmen and volunteers, and a grant from English Heritage, Redbourn Mill, near St Albans in Hertfordshire, has risen from the ashes and been reclassified as a Grade II* listed building.

While her husband and son turned their hand to everything from labouring to bricklaying, Mandy — helped by daughter Tessa, 20, when home from univer-

The Miller's Tale

sity — made cakes and served teas on the days when the mill was opened for fundraising events.

Working from photographs and drawings, the team pieced together the mill just as it had been, reclaiming many of the fire-damaged materials. Nine tons of English oak were used. David Nicholls,

a local builder and one of the last millwrights in the country, then rebuilt all the machinery in the mill, using some parts rescued from other derelict mills.

Now the Jameses have high hopes of grinding corn commercially at the mill by this Christmas or the beginning of the new year.

It is another historic landmark for a mill that was recorded on the site in the Domesday Book of 1086 and destroyed by a fire 200 years later. Parts of the present mill date from the 16th century, although the wooden wheel and mechanism was replaced with iron machinery in 1790. Henry VIII seized the mill in

1539, and it was leased to William Hickman of St Albans for £100 down and fivepence a year in 1651.

By 1841 the mill was held by Edward Hawkins, whose family continued to work the mill for the next 144 years. His granddaughter, Ivy Hawkins, became the "only lady miller in England" after her brother was killed on the Western Front in 1917. In 1985, aged 89, she left the mill for a local nursing home and lived to the age of 94.

"Ivy was a remarkable woman," says Justin James, 23, who, having

graduated in marine engineering at Newcastle University, is to run the milling side of the business. "Although she stopped milling in the 1950s, she kept the machinery in working order by using the waterwheel to drive a powersaw to cut her firewood until the 1970s."

"We have canvassed about 60 local bakeries and many are interested in selling our stoneground flour and using it to make bread."

The new life of the mill coincides with the rebirth of its driving force — the River Ver, which three years ago dried up after the over-extraction of water for industrial use. After pressure from the Ver Valley Society and the National Rivers Authority, Three Valleys Water agreed to spend £2.5 million on a scheme to pipe water from a reservoir in Cambridgeshire. Since its completion, the flows of the river have returned. The NRA is now dredging the river bed to attract the return of plant, fish and bird life. Julian James says: "We need an extra two or three feet of water to turn the wheel. The banks upstream are full of holes caused by animals burrowing and need repairing, but once the silt from the dredging is dumped onto the banks, this will seal the leaks and help to raise the water level. Soon, we should see the mill working for the first time in 35 years."

● A crafts fair will be held at the mill, on the A5 between St Albans and Redbourn, on Dec 3, 10.30 to 5 p.m. £1.20



August 1987: a fire engine searchlight picks out the mill as smoke billows from the roof. Right: miller Ivy Hawkins, 62, pictured at work in August 1959, just before she retired



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صندوق البريد

Deutsche Telekom jobs purge

Deutsche Telekom, the German telecommunications group scheduled to become Europe's biggest privatisation next November, has finally agreed with its trade union on a plan to shed 60,000 jobs by the year 2000.

Ron Sommer, the group's management board chairman, sees the reduction as a key element in transforming the sprawling state monopoly for the private sector.

The deal, agreed late on Monday night, will reduce the workforce to 170,000. The company plans to cut the number of employees by almost 15,000 this year, awarding one-off compensation deals that will cost it about DM400 million.

More gloom for Iberia

The future of Iberia, Spain's troubled state airline, seemed bleak yesterday as Juan Manuel Eguiaray, the Spanish Minister for Industry, tried to break through in talks with the EU for another government bailout. A report by Barclays de Zoete Wedd published yesterday said the airline was virtually bankrupt.

Spain had been seeking permission from the EU to give Iberia 130 billion pesetas (£670 million) of public funds. So far, only 52 billion pesetas has been offered.

MMT record

Increasing client demand helped pre-tax profits at MMT Computing, the computer services company, to advance 22.8 per cent to a record £3.08 million in the year to August 31, as turnover rose 28.5 per cent to £14 million. A final dividend of 4.4p (3.7p), payable on January 8, gives a near 19 per cent rise in the yearly total to 6.2p (5.2p), from earnings ahead 24 per cent to 16.3p (13.1p) a share. MMT shares fell 12p to 208p.

Water group to spend £15m after increase in profits and efficiency savings

Anglian promises extra investment

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

ANGLIAN WATER has promised to spend an extra £15 million voluntarily on environmental and anti-drought measures after what Alan Smith, chief executive, described as the most successful half year in its history.

Pre-tax profits grew by 4.3 per cent to £126 million in the six months to September 30, in spite of an increased loss of £4.5 million, against £1.8 million, from unregulated water engineering businesses. The core East Anglian water and sewerage utility raised operating profits by 10 per cent to £154 million on turnover up 5 per cent to £331 million. Prices were up 4.1 per cent and

Anglian gained about 14,000 extra customers.

The interim dividend rises 11 per cent to 8.9p per share from earnings up 6.5 per cent to 41.2p. Earnings per share were helped by Anglian buying in a tenth of its shares.

Robin Gourlay, the chairman, said the dividend rise was justified by the company's success in cutting costs by more than its regulator had assumed. Efficiency savings of £10.1 million pushed operating costs down 3 per cent to £126 million, a drop of 6.5 per cent in real terms.

Chris Mellor, finance director, said that the cost-cutting programme was a year ahead

of schedule and savings should reach £20 million for the full year. In addition, Anglian is in talks with neighbouring Severn Trent Water on co-operation to cut costs on anything from emergency vehicles to procurement.

Mr Smith emphasised that no merger was contemplated and Anglian had no wish to move into electricity. The company held talks with Eastern Electricity, but they came to nothing and only modest savings were found. Eastern has since been taken over by Hanson, the conglomerate.

Two thirds of the £15 million voluntary investment will go on improvements to the water distribution network to remedy weaknesses shown by the drought, even though Anglian was one of the companies that managed to avoid hosepipe bans or any extensive loss of supply — at an extra cost of about £1 million.

Anglian will consult the National Rivers Authority on priorities for the unbudgeted environmental spending. The £15 million is not allowed for in prices. Total investment will be little changed at about £300 million for the full year.

The company has the lowest leakage rate of the ten privatised water groups. But Mr Smith said there might be a short-term upturn as the dry ground made burst pipes more likely this winter.

While rejecting proposed reforms of water regulation, Anglian is calling for much greater influence for its customers in deciding the balance between quality and prices. In order to keep prices down in last year's review, Ofwat rejected £200 million of investment approved by an extensive customer survey. The company has among the highest prices in the country, but has also gone farthest in metering, with 13 per cent of households now on meters.

Mr Smith said that customer services committees appointed by Ofwat did a good job, but that an independent voice for consumers required a model more like the Gas Consumers' Council.



Alan Smith, left, Robin Gourlay, centre, and Chris Mellor are to pour funds into investment

Currencies gain helps Amersham to edge up

By PHILIP PANGALOS

GROWING consolidation in the drugs industry and tighter research budgets combined with a sharp downturn in German environmental sciences business at Amersham International, taking a toll on the health science group's profits.

Currency benefits helped Amersham's pre-tax profits to edge up to £19.8 million in the six months to September 30, from £19.6 million last time, as turnover climbed 6 per cent to £163.9 million. Profits were boosted by a £1.5 million currency gain, with underlying profits down 7 per cent. Research and development spend rose 5 per cent to £10.3 million.

The group's life sciences operations have faced tough trading in the US as growing consolidation in the drugs industry has tightened research budgets, cutting out entire R&D units at some companies, and has hit sales of Amersham's diagnostic and assay kits. Operating profits at the division rose to £15.6 million (£15.3 million), on flat turnover of £74.4 million.

In spite of intensified price competition affecting traditional radiochemicals, Bill Castell, chief executive, expects the life sciences division to benefit from past restructuring and investment in new products, especially in the areas of sequencing and enzymes.

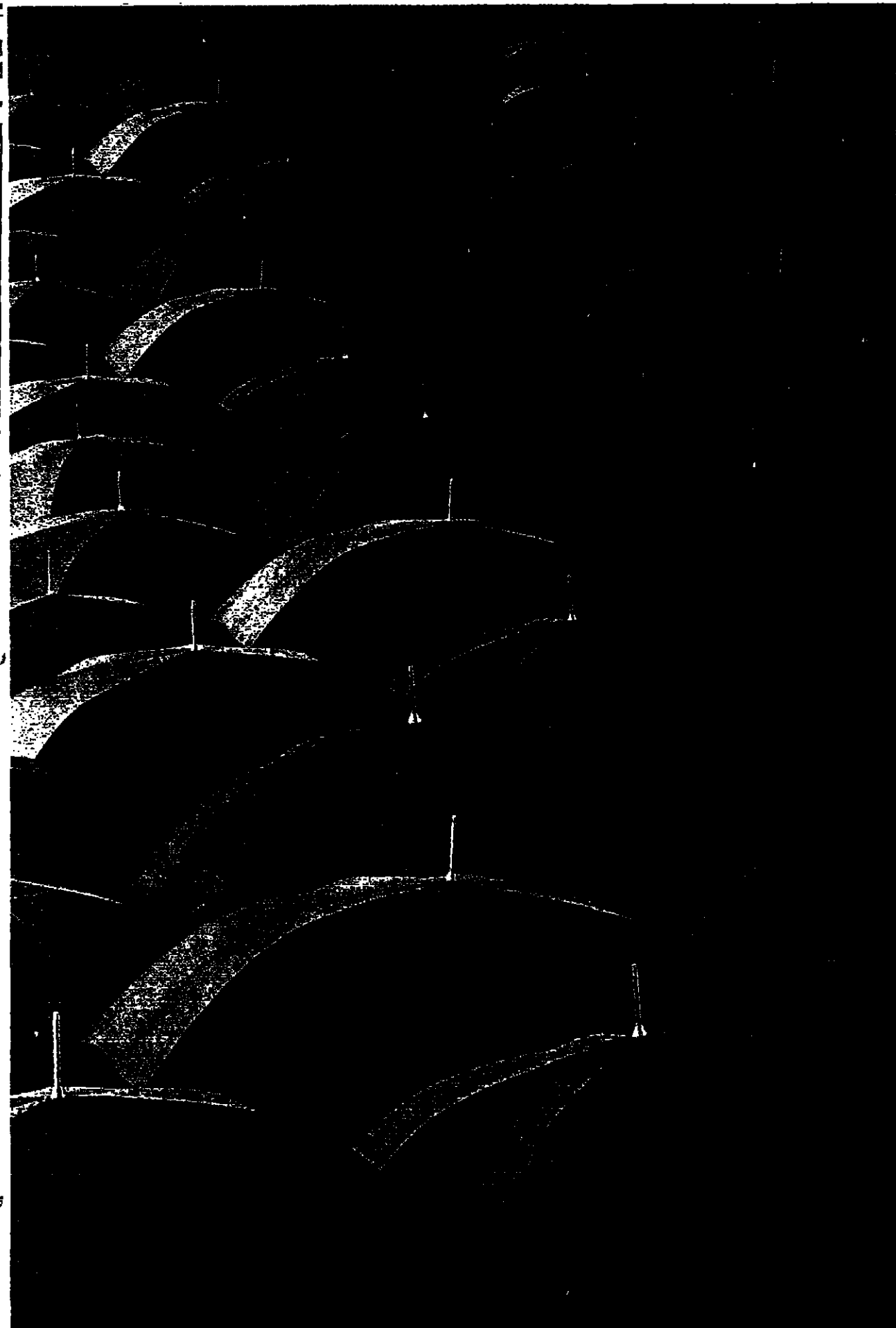
The healthcare division's profit rose to £5.9 million (£5.5 million), on turnover of £66.3 million (£62.3 million). Sales of Ceretec, Amersham's patented brain imaging agent, were hit by increased competition from DuPont's Neulofite, which was on sale in Japan and the US for the first time as well as Europe.

Operating profits from the industrial quality and safety assurance division slumped to £400,000 (£1.3 million), on turnover of £20.9 million (£22.7 million).

The interim dividend is maintained at 4.9p, in spite of a dip in earnings to 20.1p (20.8p) a share.

Amersham shares tumbled 71p to 849p.

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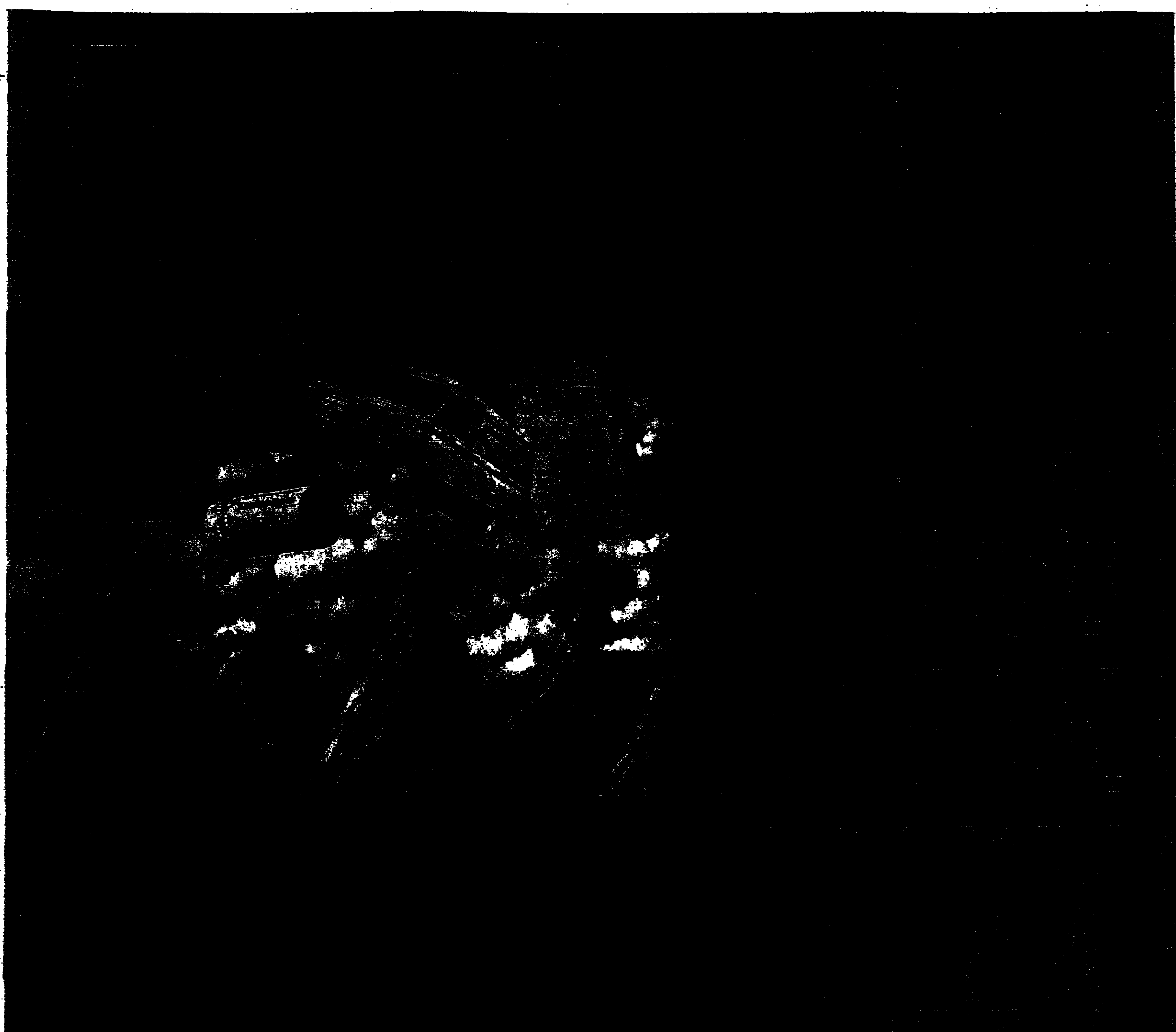
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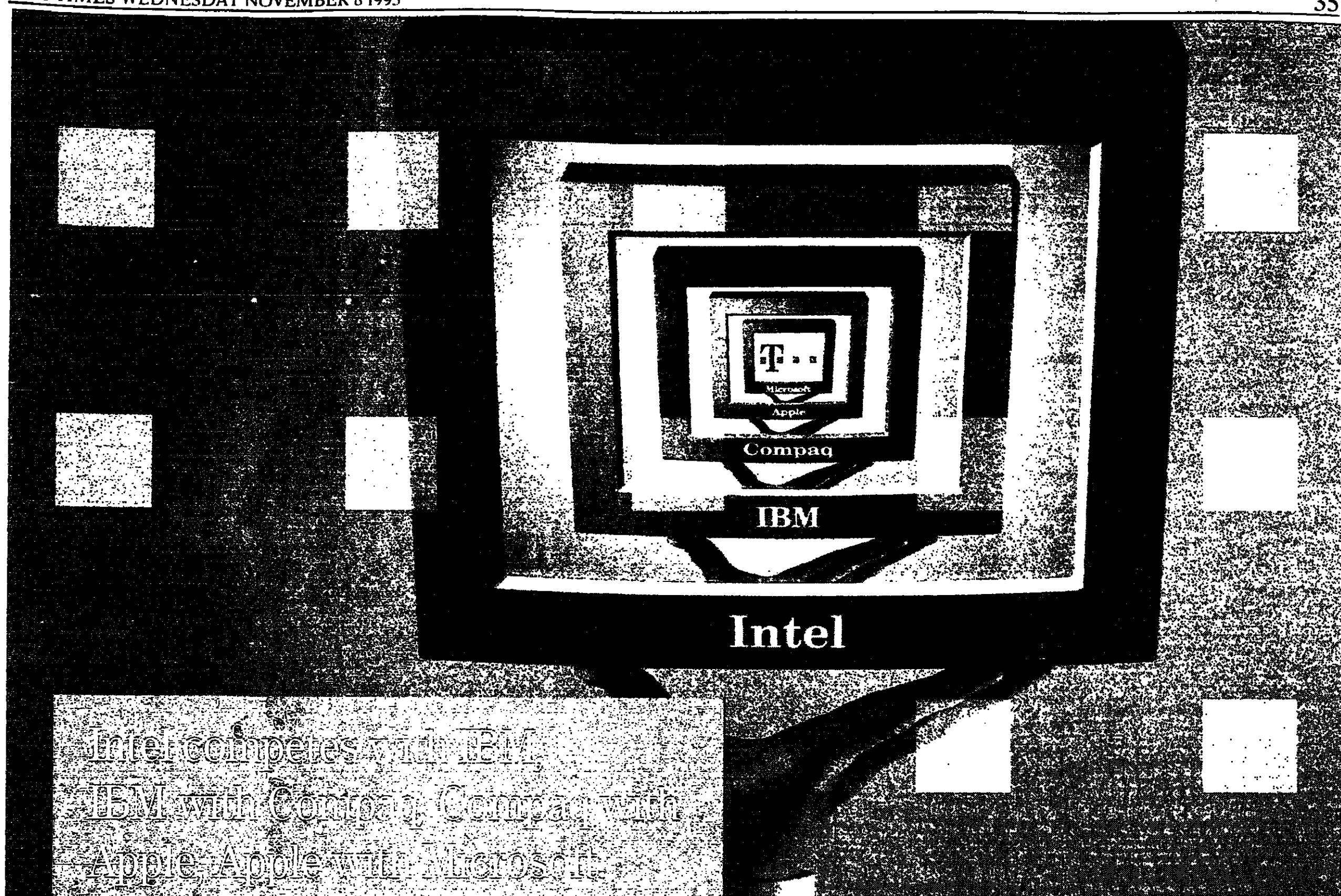
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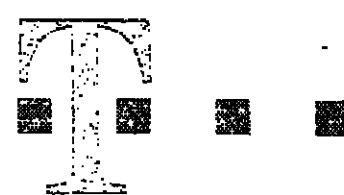
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THEATRE 1

From the ageless Julie Andrews's return to the stage in the new musical *Victor/Victoria*...

THEATRE 2

... to Zoe Caldwell playing Maria Callas in McNally's *Master Class*: New York is back on song

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE 3

Corin Redgrave plays the actor on the slide in Clifford Odets's *The Country Girl* at Greenwich

THEATRE 4

... and Dorothy Parker's late play, *Ladies of the Corridor*, is also revived on the London fringe

Sweet Julie loses out to Callas treatment

The big Broadway musical is alive and kicking, says **Benedict Nightingale**, but the class act comes from opera

Applause inflation is rampant in America, creating problems for the reviewer. What do you do when audiences leap to their feet en masse and give a performer a long, ecstatic ovation? If you refuse to stand, you look like a curmudgeon from a Baedeker cartoon. The Man Who Didn't Like Carol Channing. If you join in, you are betraying your professional detachment and, often, your true feelings. "I pretend I have lost my wallet under my seat," says a New York colleague. "That keeps me safely on the ground for plenty of time."

During a long weekend spent maggotting in the Big Apple, this dilemma faced me twice. The first time, I kept my seat despite the dangerous-sounding yelps and whoops of animal glee that Julie Andrews's presence in *Victor/Victoria*, the new musical at the Marquis, provoked in the man behind me.

The second, I'm afraid I stopped being a professional and became a person. Very occasionally you come across a performance so miraculous that it makes the lame walk and pulls critics from the half-horizontal to the vertical. Zoe Caldwell's Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's *Master Class* had that effect on me and, let's hope, will have it on Broadway itself.

Everyone is saying that the Fabulous Invalid is looking friskier this season than for ages. According to *Variety*, 11 new productions have opened this season, compared with just four a year ago, and the total box-office receipts since May are up from \$158 million to \$177 million. But don't gush too loudly or talk too precipitately of recovery. Nearly a third of Broadway's 40 theatres are dark. And of the \$9

million taken in a recent week, some \$6 million came from just ten mega-musicals, *Phantom of the Opera* to *Miss Saigon* to the disappointing but clearly unstoppable *Victor/Victoria*.

Drama is still having a tough time on Broadway. No one sees any future for one of the two straight plays that have just joined the one or two already there. If there is anything Broadway audiences suspect more than religious subjects it is problem-plays, and Diane Shaffer's *Sacrilege*, which has Ellen Burstyn as a battling nun who wants to be a crusading priest, is a problem-play about religion.

But the other new arrival is more than a joy. It is a test-case. If *Master Class* fails, the producers might as well nail a neon placard reading "musicals only" over Times Square.

McNally conceived the play as a solo turn set nowhere much, then added a bashful pianist and three aspiring singers and transposed the action to Juilliard in the 1970s. This means that, although Caldwell's Callas dominates, her professional and personal monomania emerges more dramatically and, mostly, with more cause.

She tries to inject soul into the plump girl in apricot muslin who trills her way through a key song in Bellini's *Sonnambula*, sounding as if she has lost a cookie-jar, not a lover. She chastens the cocky tenor who aspires to be the next Mario Lanza, and somehow gets from him a rendering of Puccini's *Recondita armonia* that reduces her to momentary tears. Finally, she is vilified by the edgy soprano she has guided through Lady Macbeth's letter-reading scene



The diva comes to life on Broadway: Zoe Caldwell (right) as Maria Callas with David Loud in Terrence McNally's superb play, *Master Class*

and then gently informed she lacks genius.

Since Callas is given to confidential asides, plenty of information emerges about her history and philosophy. The formative years of hunger and fear in wartime Athens. Her rejection of her first husband for the crude, boastful zillionaire who said his favourite moment in opera was the interval, and then her Medea-style abandonment by him. Her insistence that music

is a sacramental art, unreachable except by total emotional honesty and absolute self-discipline.

McNally could cut some of Callas's earlier laugh-lines — one about orgasms clearly embarrassed Caldwell herself — but generally he maintains a balance between the seriously funny and the seriously serious.

So does Caldwell, an Australian-born actress far better known in America than Brit-

ain. She keeps you laughing at Callas's irony, fastidiousness, unwitting egotism and brusque pride — "How can you have rivals when no one else can do what you do?" — while never letting you lose either respect for her rigour or sight of her vulnerability.

Caldwell does not sing; but on two occasions her raddled face and white, glinting eyes are frozen in a spot, and recorded Callas replaces her pupils' warblings. To hear her

talk of triumph at La Scala while Bellini fills the Golden Theatre is unforgettable, worth swimming to New York to catch.

After that, all else on Broadway shines a bit wanly, although there is plenty of harmless merriment to be had from Ken Ludwig's new *Moon over Buffalo*. The formula includes Carol Burnett and Philip Bosco as a theatrical couple on the slide. Irish coffee erroneously substitut-

ing as a cure for drunkenness, an innocent TV weatherman mistaken for a great movie director, and a matinee that goes spectacularly awry when *Cyrano* blunders into *Private Lives*. At times the result lacks the logic of the best farce, but at others it struck me as the funniest play about temperamental thespians since *Kattinger's Harlequinade*, possibly even Coward's *Hay Fever*.

This is also turning out to be the season for golden, or at

least gold-tinted, oldies. I side-stepped the 74-year-old Channing in what may and may not be her final *Hello Dolly!*; but I caught Andrews, who carbon-dates 60 and looks 40, in the musical version of Blake Edwards's film about the starving singer who turns fake drag queen and becomes the toast of 1930s Paris. *Victor/Victoria* is slick, gorgeously designed, and troubled.

One trouble is that Andrews, although exuding quiet decency and dignified sweetness, never looks either starving or plausibly male. Another is that Paré brought the worst out of Henry Mancini, whose music is dull, and Leslie Bricusse, whose lyrics are dim. A song called *Paris Makes Me Horny* rhymes Stockholm with "schlock home" and suggests that in Munich "every guy's a eunuch". Other drawbacks include a big, bland gangster-hero, a tough bodyguard who turns out to be a sensitive, chess-playing homosexual, and sentiment galore.

At such points wise critics venture off Broadway, as I did to the Promenade for another, livelier imaginative trip to old Paris. Picasso at the Lapin Agile, by the comedian Steve Martin, brings together the youthful painter and the young Einstein in a turn-of-the-century bar, and sets them debating beauty, the future and much else. Terry Johnson has played similar people-games in *Insightance* and *Hysteria*, as has Tom Stoppard in *Travesties*. Martin has his enjoyably silly moments, but also his enjoyably sharp ones, and isn't disgraced by such comparisons. If he waxes a bit sentimental about genius, you forgive him.

Plot there isn't. Instead, you feel Martin is splitting what might be a good solo turn among the members of Randall Arney's cast. Still, who cares when the effect is so often so funny?

Boozily treading the boards

The Country Girl
Greenwich Theatre

Clifford Odets's drama of a drunken actor and his stalwart wife was renamed *Winter Journey* for its London premiere in 1952. But when the Bing Crosby/Grace Kelly film was released in Britain, the original name was retained, and Annie Castledine's new production sensibly does the same.

Forty-three years ago the leads were Michael Redgrave and Googie Withers, with Sam Wanamaker as Bernie Dodd, the hag-ridden director of the play in which Frank, the potentially great actor, is nervously starting. This time Frank is played by Redgrave's son, Corin, and I wish I were old enough to do a compare and contrast job but I'm not, so that's that.

The play is a good old human drama piece, and if its neat and happy ending seems rather easily obtained after the middle region looks more likely to end in tears, there is one compensation — Odets



Corin Redgrave and Kika Markham as the drunken husband and stalwart wife caught in a human drama

was not an attractive man but, as a programme note points out, he differed from so many mid-century American dramatists in not blaming women for the troubles of men.

Dodd quickly assumes that Frank's wife, Georgie, is jealous of his success and is doing all she can, including providing alcohol, to wreck her husband's comeback. Dodd's own tormented marriage clouds his judgment, and the

dramatic struggle thus becomes one in which Bernie thinks he is saving Frank by doing the one thing that will destroy him: the wife is not Frank's enemy, but his prop.

The play, or it may be the production, would provide sharper suspense if we did not recognise from the start that Kika Markham's Georgie is virtuous and misunderstood. Markham's intonations are not those of a nagger. But the

play is really a learning process for Bernie Dodd, in which he must grow away from prejudice.

As Bernie, Daniel Stewart could make a more arresting moment of his discovery of Frank's scarred wrists, the turning-point of the play, but his facial expressions when reassessing his assumptions are perfectly judged. Redgrave gives a most telling interpretation of the complexities of Frank: the glimpses we get of the man's almost ungovernable power as an actor, when in touch with his strength, are of a piece with his nervous, self-defensive giggles when nerves eviscerate him.

On Simon Banham's ingenious set, where a metal drawbridge above the dressing-room is lowered to become a stage, Castledine's fluid production neatly uses actors and stage managers to change scenes. She also extends Odets's two references to background music so that in every scene we overhear a snatch of swing or a waltz. The personal struggle is apart from, yet part of, a wider world.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Sad satire without a sharp point

Ladies of the
Corridor
Finborough, SW10

Dorothy Parker's personal life, behind the cool wisecracks, was one of messy pain, of abortive love affairs, debts, drink and suicide attempts. She died in her Manhattan apartment with only her poodle for company. Her relatively late play *Ladies of the Corridor*, about the lives of lonely women in a New York hotel, is seen as semi-autobiographical, with Mrs Parker refracting her fears into the long-stay single ladies of her fictional Hotel Marlowe. Widowed Lulu Ames, trying to start a new life in the big city but clutchily wrecking her new romance with Paul, ends up clinging to her pet dog as an ideal of devotion. Meanwhile Mildred Tynan, divorced and owing money, drowns her sorrows in whisky and eventually kills herself.

The play was apparently too shocking for audiences in the 1950s. It closed after six weeks on Broadway and was banned in Britain. Still, watching this current revival by the Sicam

Industry, I wished the piece were sharper. Director Sean O'Connor's production commendably amasses a large company, including ladies who cannot be cast from the spring chickens who normally play the fringe. Heather Chasen as Grace Nichols, the rich cripple who will not let go of her son, can be chillingly calculating and Carolyn Jones's Lulu has drive. Showing younger promise are Caroline O'Neill as Mildred and the naturally funny Laura Macaulay as the smiling but merciless receptionist.

However, to borrow a back-hander from Mrs Parker herself (allegedly), this show runs the whole gamut of emotions from A to B. It curiously touches no nerves. Stuart Packer's Harry, the porter who has provided other ser-

vices for Mildred, does not have the viciousness to push her to suicide. Andrew Henry's Paul, who should be badly shaken by a previous jilting, is a mere smoothie. James Dearlove's dribble-stained set, with the streaming tail-lights of cars visible through the theatre's windows, is grimmer than the performance.

Parker's plot, though Arn-

aud D'Ussau collaborated on structuring the storylines, drifts then jerks and somewhat outstays its welcome. There are laughs. This is a social satire, with sniping and snobishness, noisy-parkers and little old kleptomaniacs, yet the wit is hardly dazzling. Not bad, but no big wow.

KATE BASSETT



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OPERA: The rise and rise of Amanda Roocroft; plus, was Sian Edwards in the wrong place at the wrong time?

Star shooting to the top

The soprano Amanda Roocroft is riding the crest of one of the fastest-developing careers in opera. Not yet 30, she has a diary booked until 1999 with strenuous roles in houses ranging from Covent Garden to Munich and the Met. And, although she stresses a determination to pace herself, she leads life to the full: the next few days should see not only the release of her second solo album, but also the birth of her first child.

She remains undaunted by the prospect: undaunted, too, by having to be back at work in January — singing Amelia in *Simon Boccanegra* in Munich — before tackling the demanding title role in Strauss's *Arabella* at Covent Garden in March. "I'm doing my exercises," she says. "But I'm not singing singing; that makes too many demands on the stomach muscles, and would mean adapting my technique and then reapplying it after the baby is born. I didn't want to do anything counter-productive, so I stopped performing at the end of July."

Roocroft is not the only one taking time off for the birth: her husband is the German baritone, Manfred Henn. "Normally we try not to work on big shows at the same time," she says. "So one can travel to hear the other, and vice versa. It's better to be supportive, rather than to get nervous together. You want to feel: 'I'm being the star now, it's time to pamper me.' And it can be more stressful singing together: two years ago we both sang in a hideous *Costi* in Lausanne, and all we could talk about was how awful the production was and how miserable we were."

Fiordiligi in *Costi fan tutte* has become one of Roocroft's calling cards. She made her Glyndebourne debut under Simon Rattle in the role in 1991, recorded it with John Eliot Gardiner, and sang it in the Royal Opera's Miller-Armani production last January. It is also the part that first brought her to notice in 1988, while she was a student at the Royal Northern College of Music. Enthusiastic reviews were followed by more praise

John Allison
on the soprano
whose diary is
so booked that
she can turn
down La Scala

the following year, when she sang in the RNCM production of Handel's *Alcina*. Writing in *Opera* magazine, the critic Michael Kennedy noted that "in 40 years of listening to young singers I have never before heard, at this stage in development, a phenomenon to surpass Miss Roocroft."

Opera managements were quick to snap her up. She made her professional debut as Sophie in Welsh National Opera's *Rosencavalier*, and, by 1991, had appeared at Covent Garden, as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*. That WNO show and a stint as Ginevra in English National Opera's *Ariadane* have been her only outings with the regional companies here. Now that she is plunging into new roles in the international spotlight — Desdemona under Zubin Mehta at Munich, Mimi and Luisa Miller at Covent Garden all beckon — does she not feel that she has missed out on the learning experience of smaller stages?

"Earlier on, it was more exciting that way, but I didn't think of the consequences. I just went on and did as well as I could, and didn't think that I would be judged alongside people who had been in the profession ten or 15 years longer. But it has made me harder on myself. The nature of our job is to learn by experience, so I'm making my mistakes in a more public way. All I can do now is restrict the number of high-profile things I undertake." And she can cite offers declined, such as *Traviata* at La Scala and Pamina under Solti at Salzburg — "Nobody believes me apart from my agent and teacher" — as indication of the pressure on her.

Roocroft plainly deserves success. She is a serious, gifted

young singer with a secure technique and sunny tone. But some of her performances have lacked the communication that greater clarity of words can bring, and she is aware of the problem. "My diction's gradually getting better. Maybe it will never be great, but I can name a few Dames whose diction was never the best! That doesn't give me an excuse — I suppose I've been taught that quality of sound is the most important."

Discussion of Roocroft's two solo discs reveals something of the direction in which her career is going. The first, released a year ago, ranged widely from Handel, to Strauss and Puccini. "I think my resting place may be in Strauss, Verdi and, hopefully, Puccini. But I could never leave Mozart behind. So, having given everyone a taste of what the future may hold, in *Mozart and his Contemporaries* I decided to return to the present."

The "contemporaries" are Cimarosa and Haydn. Cimarosa's oratorio, *Il sacrificio d'Abraham*, was written in the same year as *Figaro*, "so it is nice to compare what was going on in Italy and Austria. In my aria from *Atemisia*, the first phrase is similar to the opening of *Non mi dir* in *Giovanni*, which reminds you that composers were borrowing from each other. I hope that these bits will make the album more interesting for the public. For the rest, Mozart is where I've had my career so far, so it made sense to concentrate on him."

● *Mozart and his Contemporaries* is released by EMI



Roocroft: looking forward to her second solo album, and the birth of her first child

ENO needs new direction

The shock resignation of Sian Edwards as music director of the English National Opera is not all that much of a shock: the operatic undergrowth has been rife with rumours of her impending departure for some months now. All that was needed was the right "political" moment, and the shock element resides mainly in the fact that this is not the right moment: no successor has been announced to wrap the whole affair up neatly.

There is certainly no shortage of candidates in the rumour factory: just as four years ago practically everyone in Britain wanted Nicholas Payne to run their opera companies (and Covent Garden won), so Opera North's music director Paul Daniel is the favourite (though he would surely be ill-advised to leave his "can't fail" post in Leeds); Richard Hickox is another name on everyone's lips, though his operatic experience is pretty limited.

Edwards's appointment four years ago was seen by the cynical as a media event as much as anything else: she was young, personable and female, and the time and place were right. The cynical might also argue that media reactions to her work at the Coliseum were coloured by this: coverage of her conducting has been less than generous to say the least, and often condescending; there has been something approaching a perceptible "get Edwards" campaign that in turn has led some commentators to give her the benefit of the doubt.

Edwards is a good musician. She had given a number of impressive performances — notably an incandescent *Traviata* for Glyndebourne

Touring Opera, and a fine *Gambler* at ENO — before taking up the Coliseum post. She had also been in charge of some duff ones, especially at Covent Garden, where she seemed unable to impose her will on the sort of multiple, unrehearsed cast changes that are part of an international house's way of life. That should have sent out any number of warning signals.

She is also an enormously likeable person, which should be irrelevant but isn't: the truth is that there has to be an element of the ruthless and tyrannical in the make-up of a successful music director in opera and I don't believe it is there in Edwards, any more than it was in an ENO predecessor, Sir Charles Groves, who was far, far too nice for the job.

Last season's disastrous *Mahagonny* seemed to me to spell it out all too clearly: it was a work Edwards knew well and understood, but decisions were taken about amplification and the placing of the chorus in the auditorium that no music director should have tolerated. Edwards didn't put her foot down.

Not that her time at ENO was without high points. Last season's prize-winning *Khorramshahr* was a solid success. But there have also been some dim evenings, and in the end she was perhaps the wrong person for the job at the wrong time. And there's the rub: it was the wrong time then, with an entirely new management in place, it is even more wrong now. Dennis Marks's management has even more trenchant critics than Edwards's musical directorship.

The new musical director will need the guts to take over at a time of great uncertainty — the company is considering the possibility of leaving the Coliseum, its home for nearly 30 years — and provide qualities of leadership quite out of the ordinary. Morale is vital, now more than at any time in ENO's history. He, or as it may be she, will need to reassert the primacy of musical values, since it is on those values that in the end the success of any opera company depends.

And it will have to be someone who trusts Marks, and vice-versa, which does not seem to have been the case in recent years. Conspiracy theorists suggest that Edwards was appointed over Marks's head in the first place. Anyway, there is a feeling of sacrificial lamb to her departure, and I don't like it.

RODNEY MILNES

ARCHITECTURE: Marcus Binney on how Terry Farrell is trying to prove his critics wrong

Terry Farrell has met his critics. Fed up with sniping from fellow architects, he has mounted the biggest, whammiest exhibition yet held at the Royal Institute of British Architects. More a "show" than a conventional exhibit, it consists of numerous very large, bold colour photographs, computer simulations and giant models which are best seen at night when they light up internally.

"Buildings are large sculptural objects," Farrell explains. "So I built six of the biggest models ever made in the UK." We are used to looking down at architectural models; here you look up at models set on plinths the size of the average kitchen. It is architecture's equivalent of the V&A cast galleries, all in white and very dramatic.

The criticism made of Farrell is that he lacks integrity and rigour, that he fails to adhere to the functionalist

King of the populists

doctrines of truth to materials and structural honesty. Farrell rebuts all doctrinaire stances as inimical. While many architects believe the guiding force in design is the creation of space, Farrell believes it is about mass and volume. He likes buildings that are big, expressive, with a strong personality of their own.

When recession hit Britain in the late 1980s, Farrell went east, winning three major commissions in Hong Kong, another while stopping off at Dubai, and now a commission for a major corporate headquarters in Seoul. More jobs in Korea are now in prospect. Farrell's buildings are about imagery and he believes this gives his designs appeal in the East. "They

prefer gentle curves to the angular high-tech language of much contemporary British architecture."

Farrell's Peak Tower in Hong Kong has been dubbed the "Flying Wok". His drawings, showing it entwined with plumes of white smoke illuminated by spotlights, are straight out of *Ghostbusters*. His buildings constantly suggest analogies, whether from everyday objects or science fiction. His competition design for a new station in Lisbon could be a bread slicer; the ventilation building for Kowloon Station looks set to move on its hampches like a vehicle out of *Power Rangers*. Farrell's buildings are also about contrast. The Dubai Arts Centre is half airport terminal and half caravan-

serai arcaded court around a secluded garden. Farrell unashamedly plunders the whole history of architecture for motifs he can transform.

Architectural exhibitions tend to fall into the trap of providing too much to read. Farrell has no text panels at all, and just one line of caption for each set of photographs. He makes up for this by offering a tape-recorded tour of the kind familiar at art exhibitions, in which he himself talks you through selected projects. He lights his exhibits, including wall-hung models, with the same care and flair as the showcases in a Cartier window. It is populism pure and simple. But it is populism that has helped Farrell to win the commission to design (and find a site for) a possible new home for English National Opera.

● Terry Farrell at Riba, 66 Portland Place, London W1 071-580 5533, until Dec 2

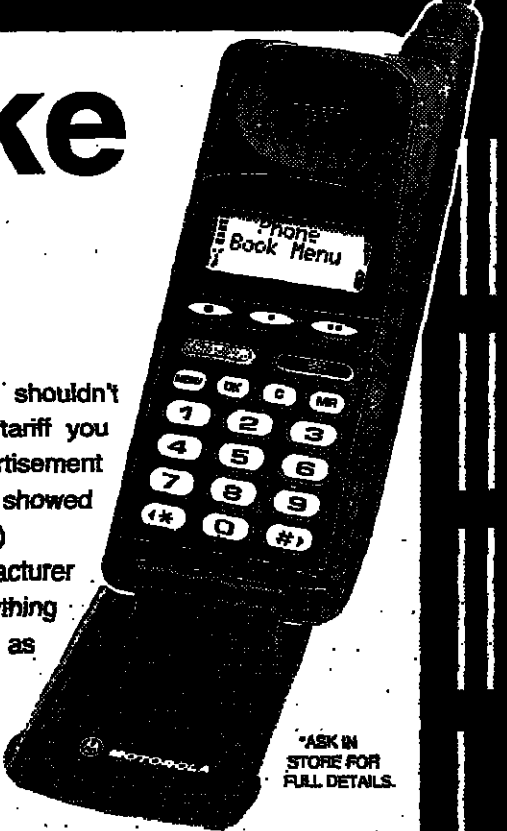
a sharp point

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Directed by PETER GILL
Peter Gill... James Wilton...
retrospective... (C...)
of co...
Mark...
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CHOICE 1

André Previn conducts the LSO in Beethoven and American music

VENUE: Tonight at the Barbican Hall

CHOICE 2

Bardic sketches are presented in A Shakespeare Revue

VENUE: In preview at the Vaudeville, London

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Soul diva Anita Baker is back in Britain for the first time since 1990

VENUE: Tonight at the NEC in Birmingham

DANCE

BT Dance '96: could it be a giant leap for the children of Britain?



Installing a new party line

Simon Tait on the young people finding new ways of expression in BT Dance '96

A small boy was blocking the aisle, putting on a show. His startling series of twirls, rolls, leaps and trips brought a round of applause from those trying to get past him to the bar. He looked up, blushed, and sank back into his seat to await his older sister's more legitimate appearance, on stage, in BT Dance '96.

British Telecom has put £250,000 into this new youth dance programme, joining up with Larry Westland's Dance for Youth, a sister organisation to Music for Youth, to produce a regional programme devised to create a national platform for youth dance. The emphasis, Westland says, is on variety, and the range among this first group of regional finalists was wide: jive, hip-hop, contemporary, tap, even Russian folk dancing.

"These children don't often get an opportunity to perform," Westland says. "By bringing them together in groups they get a sense of the magic. It's part of helping them develop as people, as a dance audience and, perhaps, as dancers."

Dance groups of children and young amateurs between the ages of 11 and 18 were asked to submit videos of their entries to a panel of specialists for intention and purpose in the work, communication, a sense of ensemble, the general effectiveness of the piece and the degree of challenge, all governed by the overall quality of performance.

A dozen or so at a time have been chosen to go forward to live regional events throughout Britain, and from these will emerge 12 finalists to perform at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London at the BT Dance '96 UK Festival next March. About 200 applications were expected, and 550 roles in the programme, the sponsorship manager for BT, had committed the company to only one year of the scheme for certain, but decided, after seeing the first of the showcases at the Greenwich Dance Centre in southeast London, to make it three years.

There were ten groups from London and Kent strutting their stuff at the showcase.



The organisers of BT Dance '96 expected about 200 entrants in the contest. There were 550



And their ambition, as much as their ability, was what impressed the evening's presenter, the broadcaster Gill Pyrah: "There doesn't seem to be anything they don't think they can do," she said. "The power of some of the narrative is quite shaking." She had just introduced Carolyn Baker and Luke Kantenhorn, two 17-year-olds from the Hextable Youth Dance Company, and their own creation about AIDS.

However, the joint winners of this London/Kent heat were the Russian dancers of Rabinovskaya of Broadstairs, and a group of 11-year-olds from Ravenstone Primary School in Balham, south London. Ravenstone's head teacher, Anne Reysbach, commits part of the school's management budget to dance. "It's important for them to be able to do this," Reysbach says. "But it's an old school which does not even have a hall big enough for all of the pupils."

The 16 children in the Ravenstone troupe had, as their classroom project last

the Place Theatre and which performed a piece choreographed by Richard Alston.

But they might not. The BT Dance UK Festival is a show, Westland says, which has to be produced. If another representation of Ravenstone's theme comes along, for example, and it fits the eventual programme better, the school may yet be left in the audience.

The BT Dance programme will provide a lot of creative fun for thousands of youngsters over the three years. Whether it makes a lasting difference will depend largely on whether the dance community itself takes an interest.

Janet Archer is chairwoman of the National Youth Dance Festival Committee and director of Dance City, the national dance agency in Newcastle. "BT Dance '96 will give youth dance a higher profile," she says. "But we must find a way of making it all fit logically with what is already happening in community dance so that we can get something permanent out of this after it's gone."

The Ravenstone dancers could well go on to the QEII in the spring, having bested, for example, the 13-to-18-year-olds from Youth, which gets professional tuition twice a week at

Joy of the parlour

THERE was a whiff of the aspidochelone about Monday's Wigmore Hall concert. It hung over the clanging harmonies of *The Long Day Closes*, an unaccompanied part-song by Sir Arthur Sullivan, which served as an honorary encore to an evening whose assortment of those we have loved would have graced any parlour.

The occasion, a little strangely, was the presentation of the Alfreda Hodgson Bursary, an award made to a young singer every two years in memory of the Irish contralto. Strangely, because we heard nothing of the prize-winning bass-baritone James Rutherford himself, and because the programme lacked both the coherence and, at times, the quality of Hodgson's own career.

Alfreda Hodgson Bursary Concert Wigmore Hall

The Sullivan quartet of Simon Berridge, Ian Partridge, Michael George and Stephen Roberts was joined by Catherine Wyn-Rogers and pianist Malcolm Martineau for a Schubertian counterpart in the form of a thrumming serenade. The *Ständchen* heralded an unhappy performance of Beethoven's *An die ferne Geliebte* by Robert Tear and John Lill, the one scarcely a *Lieder* singer, the other hardly an accompanist.

Just that quality of shifting sounds and lights re-created in voice and piano and lacking in the Beethoven, lit up the Fauré songs of Joan Rodgers and Martineau. Rodgers's soprano held back every languid vowel in *En sourdine*, fluttered with the fingers of Martineau in *Mandoline*, and sang out the full heart of *Noir* after.

After Lill's studied performance of Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*, mezzo-soprano Wyn-Rogers paid her own generous tribute to Hodgson in Brahms's songs for contralto and viola. *Gestille Sehnsucht* and *Geistliches Wiegenlied*. Rachel Bolt's viola conspired to re-create the evening light and the lullaby before Sullivan's gloaming brought the evening to what felt like a premature close.

HILARY FINCH

LONDON

PREVIN RETURNS After opening the London Symphony Orchestra's season with the 14-year-old violin prodigy Sarah Chang, Conductor Laureate André Previn returns with the peerless Anne-Sophie Mutter. Tonight's programme includes Beethoven's Violin Concerto, and opens with a real rarity: the Symphony for Classical Orchestra written in 1947 by the American neo-classical composer Harold Shapero. Barbican, 8.30pm. Tickets £10-25. (0171-733 8891) Tonight and Thurs, 7.30pm. (0171-733 8891)

SHAKESPEARE REVUE First night of previews for a witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William Shakespeare. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee, and a recent sell-out at the Barbican. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 0171-836 9887. Previews tonight-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8.30pm; mat Sat, 5.30pm. Opens Nov 13, 7pm.

WIGMORE SONGS Soprano Joan Rodgers and baritone Gerald Finley continue the Wigmore's excellent Song Recital series, following on from Dame Margaret Price's triumph. Performance last week they were accompanied by pianist Julian Drake for a programme of Wolf's *Lieders*. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 0171-935 2141. Tonight, 8pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM A soul diva in the classic mould, Anita Baker takes up her first British dates since 1990. Her recent work includes last year's low-key comeback *Rhythm of Love*, a contribution to Frank Sinatra's *Duet* album and *When You Love Someone* with James Ingram on the soundtrack of *Forrest Gump*. With special guest George Duke. NEC, 0121-767 4678. Tonight, then London, Wembley Arena, 0161-920 1204. Nov 10, Manchester, Apollo, 0161-832 1111. Nov 11

LIVERPOOL Works by Brahms and Dvořák are on offer tonight at Water Wed and Sat, 8pm. The Royal Scottish National Orchestra, as part of the Royal Orchestra Exchange series, a collaboration between the RSO, the Royal Liverpool and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestras to perform in Birmingham and each other's home cities this season. Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, 0151-709 3789. Then Birmingham.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodson as the all-knowing inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Wokosin as the pillars of society. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 0171-494 5095. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm. mat Wed, 2.30pm. Sat, 5pm.

JOLSON The highs and lows of the singer with a monster ego. Brian Coney tells out the songs enjoyably and Sissy Ann triplet is an impressive Ruby Kender. Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 0171-834 1371. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

JEFFREY DAWHER IS UNWELL Alan Francis and Mike Hanley in their current black comedy in the form of the Edinburgh Fringe. Two flat mates, one obsessed with serial killers, the other with model aeroplanes. Hampstead, Seven Dials Theatre, NW3 0171-722 9001. Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm. Until Nov 18.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere

Indicated with the symbol (S)

on release across the country

Travellers (0171-434 0031) UCI

Whiteleys (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

ASSASSIN (15) Cat and mouse games between two contract killers. Reasonable action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone, Antonio Banderas and Julia Roberts. Director, Richard Donner. MGM Travellers (0171-434 0031) Warner (0171-437 4343)

CLUELESS (15) Life and empty romance. Beverly Hills teenagers. Travellers (0171-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343)

HAUNTED (18) Ghostly thriller about the ropes caused by a rationalist's murder. Labour version of James Herbert's novel. Director, Lewis Gilbert. Empire (0171-437 4343) MGM Travellers (0171-434 0031)

LONDON

MANCHESTER And, finally, another orchestra also embarks on a brief series tonight. The Hallé Orchestra learns up with seasoned conductor Glyndwr Hertzog for a programme of Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and Dvořák. Leland Chen is the soloist. Free Trade Hall, Peter Street, 0161-834 1712. Tonight, Thurs and Sun, then Thurs, 7.30pm. Sat, 12.30pm and 7.30pm. Fri, All at 7.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican Dora Carrington 0171-638 4141. British Museum: Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster 0171-638 1555. ... Hayward: Art and Power: Bangs under the dictators 1930-1945 0171-928 3144. National Gallery: Goods in Caspary Caravaggio 0171-747 2889. National Portrait Gallery: John Constable's *Portrait of a Lady* 0171-730 0085. Royal Academy: *John Constable's *Portrait of a Lady** 0171-438 7438. ...

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Delay on death row justifies commutation of sentence

Guerra v Baptiste
Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nolan and Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead (Judgment November 6)

To execute an appellant after a lapse of four years and 10 months between the imposition of a sentence of death and completion of the entire domestic appellate process would constitute cruel and unusual punishment contrary to his rights under the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and his death sentence would be commuted to a sentence of life imprisonment. Furthermore, the giving of less than 17 hours notice to the appellant of his execution constituted a breach of his constitutional rights.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council so held in allowing an appeal by the appellant, Lincoln Anthony Guerra, from the dis-

missal on July 27, 1994, by the Court of Appeal of Trinidad and Tobago of his appeal from Mr Justice Jones in the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago, who had dismissed his motion for redress for alleged infringements of his constitutional rights.

Mr Philip Sapsford, QC, Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Mr Tim Owen for the appellant; Sir Geoffrey Le Queux, QC, Mr Nolan Berezau, Deputy Solicitor-General, Trinidad and Tobago, and Mr Peter Knox for the respondents.

LORD GOFF said that on May 18, 1989, the appellant, together with Brian Wallen, was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. On July 29, 1994, Brian Wallen died in prison of natural causes.

Meanwhile, in June 1989, the two men had applied for leave to appeal against their convictions. But it was not until October 1993

that their appeals were heard by the Court of Appeal. The hearing was concluded on November 2, when the appeals were dismissed, reasons being handed down on November 25. Their petition for leave to appeal to the Privy Council was dismissed on March 21, 1994.

Thereafter the authorities moved with great speed. On March 23 the Advisory Committee on the Power of Pardon, with whom, pursuant to section 89(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the designated minister consulted before advising the President whether to exercise the power of pardon, met to consider commutation of their death sentences.

Following the consultation, the minister recommended that the law should take its course. The warrants for their execution were read to them on March 24, 1994, at 07.00 hours on March 25.

Although less than 17 hours notice was given to them of their impending execution those advising them succeeded in filing a constitutional motion for a writ of habeas corpus alleging that their execution would constitute a violation of their constitutional rights.

The central issue was that arising from the decision in *Pratt v Attorney-General for Jamaica* [1994] 2 AC 1.

The issues whether there was a breach of the appellant's constitutional rights in failing to allow him an opportunity to make representations to the Advisory Committee on the Power of Pardon, and whether the failure of the state to adopt a procedure which permitted the appellant to make representations to the United Nations Human Rights Committee, or the state to take into account the UNHRC's advice, constituted a breach of the appellant's constitutional rights, raised fundamental questions of great importance; the former involved a challenge to the decision of the Privy Council in *de Freitas v Benny* [1991] AC 239.

Having regard to the decision that the appellant's death sentence

should be commuted to a sentence of life imprisonment on the principle in *Pratt's* case, the issue relating to the advisory committee did not arise for decision.

The issue relating to the UNHRC too did not arise for decision, because the UNHRC had determined that the appellant's communication was inadmissible for non-exhaustion of domestic remedies.

In all the circumstances, their Lordships did not consider that it would be appropriate for them to deal with either of those issues in the present case.

It had been urged on behalf of the appellant that such delay occurred in the appellate process, between the date of his conviction and sentence on May 18, 1989, and the date when his petition for leave to appeal was dismissed by the Privy Council on March 21, 1994, that to execute him after the period of time spent by him on death row would constitute a breach of his constitutional rights on the principles established by the Privy Council in *Pratt's* case.

These principles were applicable in Trinidad and Tobago as they were in Jamaica, the only difference, which was of no importance, being that in Jamaica such execution would constitute inhuman and cruel and unusual punishment.

The fundamental principle established in *Pratt's* case (at p33) was "A state that wishes to retain capital punishment must accept the responsibility of ensuring that execution follows as swiftly as practicable after sentence, allowing a reasonable time for appeal and consideration of reprieve... If the appellate procedure enables the prisoner to prolong the appellate hearings over a period of years, the appellant is entitled to the appellate system that permits such delay and not to the prisoner who takes advantage of it."

No fixed time was specified for the period within which execution should take place after conviction and sentence. The period was to be

ascertained by reference to the requirement that execution should follow as swiftly as practicable after sentence, allowing a reasonable time for appeal and consideration of reprieve.

In the judgments delivered by the courts below in the present case, much emphasis was placed on the problems created for the courts by the shortage of resources available to them, especially in the difficult conditions now prevailing in Trinidad and Tobago.

Even so, when considering to what extent regard might be had to problems facing the judicial system in assessing a reasonable time for appeal for present purposes, it was necessary to refer to the following passage in *Pratt's* case (at pp34-35): "Their Lordships are very conscious that the Jamaican Government faces great difficulties with a disturbing murder rate and limited financial resources at its disposal to administer the legal system."

"Nevertheless, if capital punishment is to be retained it must be carried out with all possible expedition... The aim should be to hear a capital appeal within 12 months of conviction... It is to be an application to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council it must be made as soon as possible."

"In this way it should be possible to complete the entire domestic appeal process within approximately two years. Their Lordships do not purport to set down any rigid timetable but to indicate what appear to them to be realistic targets."

That was as applicable to Trinidad and Tobago as it was to Jamaica, and demonstrated the limited extent to which regard could be had in the present context to problems facing the judicial system. Such problems could not be allowed to excuse long delays.

If capital punishment was to be carried out it had to be carried out with all possible expedition. It was in that sense that a "reasonable time" for appeal was to be understood. In the assessment of such reasonable time, great importance

had to be attached to ensuring that, consonant with the tradition of the common law and the recognition of the inhumanity involved in prolonging the period awaiting execution on death row, such delay would not occur and any delay which did occur would be curtailed.

In *Pratt's* case (at p35) the Board also concluded: "In any case in which execution is to take place more than five years after sentence there will be strong grounds for believing that the delay is such as to constitute inhuman or degrading punishment or other treatment."

The five year period was not intended to provide a limit, or a yardstick, by reference to which individual cases should be considered in constitutional proceedings. In the present case the time between sentence of death and completion of the hearing by the Court of Appeal was 4½ years, and between sentence and the completion of the entire domestic appellate process, that is, until after dismissal of the appellant's petition for leave to appeal to the Privy Council, was four years and 10 months.

Those figures were to be compared with realistic targets of approximately 12 months and two years respectively. Each of the target periods was very substantially exceeded. The overwhelming reason for that excess was the failure to make available the judge's notes of the evidence at the trial until four years after it was over.

In all the circumstances there had been a substantial and unjustifiable period of delay in the disposal of the appellant's appeal, a period which in all probability exceeded three years.

Bearing in mind that the unjustified period of delay ran into a number of years, and led to a lapse of time since sentence of death was imposed far in excess of the target periods and close to the period (five years) from which it might be inferred, without detailed examination of the particular case,

that there had been such delay as would render the condemned man's execution thereafter unlawful, to execute the appellant after such a lapse of time would constitute cruel and unusual punishment contrary to his rights under sections 4(a) and 5(2)(b) of the Constitution.

It was for those reasons that their Lordships had come to the conclusion, announced at the conclusion of the hearing, that the appeal had to be allowed and the appellant's death sentence commuted to a sentence of life imprisonment.

The courts below expressed the view that little if any regard should be paid to the period spent by condemned men on death row before their final appeal was dismissed. Their Lordships did not feel able to subscribe to that philosophy.

The period before the appellate process had been finally exhausted had to be taken into account in deciding whether there had been such delay since the death sentence was imposed as to render execution thereafter cruel and unusual punishment.

The appellant was given less than 17 hours notice of his execution. It was submitted that so short a notice of execution constituted a breach of his constitutional rights.

The essential submissions advanced on behalf of the appellant were that the period of notice was so short that execution in such circumstances would constitute cruel and unusual punishment contrary to section 5(2)(b), or would deprive him of his life otherwise than by due process of law or deprive him of the protection of the law contrary to section 4(a) or (b) respectively.

Justice and humanity required that a man under sentence of death should be given reasonable notice of the time of his execution. To execute a condemned man without first giving him such notice of his execution would constitute cruel and unusual punishment contrary to section 5(2)(b).

In an unreported case Mr Justice Davis held that there was a settled

practice in Trinidad and Tobago for a condemned man to be advised of the time and date of his execution by the reading of a death warrant to him on a Thursday for execution on the following Tuesday.

In the present case Mr Justice Jones and the Court of Appeal declined to follow that decision, but their Lordships accepted the reasoning of Mr Justice Davis on the point. Even so, they doubted if the settled practice went so far as to require the warrant to be read on any particular day of the week, or to prevent the warrant from being read on a day more than four clear days before the date of execution specified in the warrant.

The effect of the settled practice was that the warrant of execution had to be read at a date which gave the condemned man the benefit of at least four clear days between the reading of the death warrant and his execution, and those four clear days should include a weekend, and the reasonable time referred to by their Lordships in relation to the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment should be so interpreted.

The giving of reasonable notice of impending execution had another distinct purpose, namely to provide the condemned man with a reasonable opportunity to obtain legal advice and to have resort to the courts for such relief as might be open to him. The settled practice that a period of at least four clear days would be necessary to constitute reasonable time was applicable to that purpose as well as to humanitarian purposes.

The giving of less than 17 hours notice to the appellant of his execution constituted a breach of his constitutional rights under sections 4(a), 5(2)(b) and 5(2)(h) of the Constitution, but since their Lordships had already concluded that the appellant's sentence of death had to be commuted to a sentence of life imprisonment on other grounds, it was unnecessary that any further relief should be granted.

Solicitors: Allen & Overy; Charles Russell.

Judges will hear summonses by telephone

Practice Statement (Patents Court Procedure)

Patent Court judges were willing to hear summonses by telephone conference for short matters unless a matter of general public importance was involved. Furthermore, the Patents Court Users' Committee would in future consider the problems and concerns of intellectual property litigation generally.

Mr Justice Jacob, judge in charge of the patents list, so stated, inter alia, in a practice statement issued in their Chancery Division on November 6.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said:

Telephone summonses
For short (20 minutes or less) matters before the Patents Court, the patent judges were willing, unless a matter of general public importance was involved, to hear summonses by telephone conference. The following was the procedure:

(a) Unless the matter was very urgent, the parties had to agree that a telephone hearing was appropriate.

(b) Where it was known that the hearing would be by telephone in advance of issue of the summons it should be marked "By telephone". Where the summons had already been issued then a letter, or fax, from the party issuing it should be sent to the patent judge's clerk indicating that a telephone hearing was desired. Where a notice of motion had already been issued the court might treat the hearing as if by summons.

(c) Any bundles to be used should be agreed and sent in advance to the judge's clerk. Any last minute documents might be sent by fax. The judge's clerk should be informed by telephone of any such documents and it would be prudent in any event to check with the clerk that the necessary papers were present and correct.

(d) The time for hearing should be agreed with the judge's clerk. It should normally be between 9.30 and 10.15am.

(e) The party issuing the summons was responsible for setting up the conference call. That might be done by contacting British Telecom on 0800 778877. The call should commence with the judge at precisely the time agreed with the judge's clerk.

(f) The costs of the call would be treated as part of the costs of the summons.

(g) Loudspeaker telephones might be used unless they interfered with the hearing.

(h) To avoid any misunderstandings, the parties had to agree a minute of order immediately following the hearing of the summons. That might most conveniently be done by one party faxing a signed copy of the minute to the other and that other signing a copy and faxing the completed agreed order to the judge, but other arrangements might be agreed. The judge's clerk would arrange for the order to be drawn up in the same way as an agreed order (see below).

(i) Mr Justice Jacob and Mr Justice Laddie had arranged for a recording of any telephone summons to be made. It would not be transcribed. The tape would be kept by the judge's clerk for a period of six months. Arrangements for transcription, if needed, had to be made by the parties.

(j) Currently the relevant numbers were: 0171-936 6771 (clerk to Mr Justice Jacob) and 0171-936 6634 (fax).

(k) The procedure might be used for most short disputed interlocu-

tory matters. The parties should use it where it would save costs. The procedure was not a substitute for the more expensive procedure of an agreed interlocutory order.

2. **Agreed interlocutory orders**
Where the parties were agreed as to the terms of an interlocutory order then it might be made without the need for a hearing. Two drafts of the agreed order and the written consent of the parties' respective solicitors or counsel should be supplied to the clerk of the judge in charge of the patents list.

Where a draft had been amended by hand, it was helpful for a disk of the unamended version to be supplied in accordance with paragraph 7.2 of the *Chancery Guide*; see [The Times April 28, 1995; [1995] 1 WLR 785]. Unless the judge considered a hearing was needed he would make the order in the agreed terms by initialling it. It would be drawn up accordingly and sent to the parties.

3. **Information sheets on hearing of summons for directions**
The formal preparation of an information sheet for a summons for directions in accordance with appendix 5 of the *Chancery Guide* was not necessary in a matter before the Patents Court. None the less it was good practice for the parties to consider the matters referred to in appendix 5 and any other matters which might shorten or affect the trial.

4. **Pre-trial reviews in patent actions**
Paragraph 3.9 of the *Chancery Guide* indicated that such a review should be held in a case of over 10 days estimated duration. However, in a matter before the Patents Court, unless any party considered that it would be helpful, there was no need for a pre-trial review.

5. **Rights of audience on hearing of summons**
Practitioners were reminded that solicitors had rights of audience on any summons in chambers before the High Court. So although in patent proceedings most interlocutory matters had to come by summons directly before a patent judge (see *Practice Direction Chancery* [1984] 1 All ER 1000) (The *Supreme Court Practice* 1995 vol 2, part 3, paragraph 854), solicitors had rights of audience on such a summons.

6. **Patents judges able and willing to sit out of London**
If the parties so desired, for the purpose of saving time or costs, the Patents Court would sit out of London. That also applied to any other intellectual property case. If such a sitting was desired a request should be made in the first instance to the clerk to Mr Justice Jacob (0171-936 6771), whether the matter was proceeding in a district registry or London.

7. **Witnessing of scope of and change of name of user's committee**
With the consent of the Vice-Chancellor and the judges of the Chancery Division, the Patents Court Users' Committee would in future consider the problems and concerns of intellectual property litigation generally. Accordingly the membership of the committee would be widened to include another Chancery judge and a representative of the Institute of Trade Mark Agents.

Any practitioner having views concerning the improvement of intellectual property litigation was invited to make his or her views known to the committee, preferably through the relevant professional representative on the committee.

Documents in the possession of one or other government department involved in the inter-departmental consideration of licences were to be regarded for the purposes of the instant case as in the possession of the Crown as an indivisible entity.

Documents deemed held by all departments

Regina v Blackledge and Others

In appropriate circumstances, any documents in the possession of any government department could be regarded as in the possession of the Crown as an indivisible entity.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Mahepherson and Mr Justice Maurice Kay) so stated on November 7 in a reserved judgment allowing appeals by William Stuart Blackledge, John Paul Green, Brian Albert Mason and Colin William Phillips against their convictions, ruling by the judge, guilty after a trial at Reading on February 25, 1992 at Reading on Crown Court (Judge Spence) of conspiring knowingly to be con-

cerned in the exportation of goods with intent to evade the prohibition on their exportation.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the arguments on appeal were based essentially on non-disclosure of relevant material by the Crown. Their Lordships were satisfied that documents which were now before the court ought to have been made available before the trial and the failure to disclose them amounted to a material irregularity.

Documents in the possession of one or other government department involved in the inter-departmental consideration of licences were to be regarded for the purposes of the instant case as in the possession of the Crown as an indivisible entity.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF THE CREDITORS

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HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES
Company Number 914080
NOLAN CLARK & CO LIMITED
Company Number 1406284
VINTAGE INVESTMENTS LTD
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Following a recommendation of the Insolvency Practitioner, the Insolvency Practitioner has been appointed to the Insolvency Practitioner's office at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, to act as the Insolvency Practitioner in the above named companies.

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Oxford finds Maradona guilty of inspirational genius



Maradona has found acceptance at last

I had him weighed up all right, but there was no real forgiveness in my handshake — only tinkers and tramps fight and make up — and young English gentlemen of course.

These words of Brendan Behan came back to me as I watched Diego Maradona in the Oxford Union on Monday night, accepting a 200-year-old bible, and a scroll commemorating him as the Master Inspirer of Oxford Dreams.

Cheered to the echo, he was. Making up? Forgiveness? Nothing so small. This was adulation. And Maradona, a legend in a city of legends, was quite overwhelmed. He gleamed with joy, from his diamond-studded ear to his feet from his three-inch blond

streak to the fingertips of his left hand.

He balanced a football on his head. Someone threw him a golf ball and he played keepy-uppy with that, Gucci loafers and all. He did everything right. In short, he showed himself to be a thoroughly good sport.

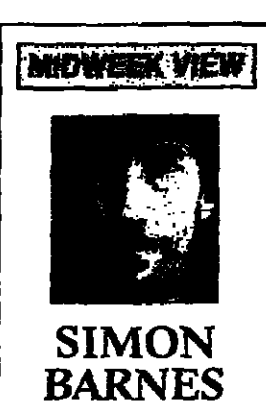
He had agreed to take questions from the floor from the students and, of course, it was not long before some had plucked up the courage to ask about that infamous Hand-of-God Incident, the handball goal by which England were knocked out of the 1986 World Cup. "Time has cured everything," Maradona said. "Cured? Perhaps. But nobody will ever forget it."

Along with all the other how-come-you're-so-great questions came the inevitable,

but crucially important one. Diego, what was your greatest ever goal? "Always I think about that famous match against England. And I think of that second goal..."

Of course. That impossible dribble from the half-way line past four English players. That resounding finish. Two goals that summed up Maradona, perhaps all of football, for all time. The first an instinctive, almost inadvertent bit of cheating. The second, a step beyond the merely sublime.

A year or so back, British television viewers voted it the finest goal in history. (Could Naim's goal now be considered the only possible competition?) But the British viewers' almost masochistic choice of Maradona's goal was fascinating.



Simon Barnes

Forgiveness? But I suppose if you have to be beaten, it is better to be beaten either by a genius or a cheat. The one fills you with warming anger and self-righteousness; the other with a head-wagging admiration. The thing about genius

and about cheating is that, in a way, you can do nothing about either. Neither behaves according to the rules.

Maradona's cheating was not of the evil, potentially crippling kind, and nobody in the game came up with anything but formal condemnation of it. There is not a footballer in history who has never stuck out a hand, to control, to shove, to hold. These little things happen, of course they do. It is more than flesh and blood can stand. "In the heat of a game your hand goes off on its own," Maradona himself, so justly remarked. It is only when it is a crucial goal in a crucial game that people really notice it.

All the same, the goal placed a huge burden of guilt on Maradona. Was it the

guilt, the desire for atonement, that caused him to embark on that labyrinthine dribble, guilt that took him past man after man, guilt that inspired the final arrowing shot? Was it guilt that inspired that crowning passage of genius?

In two defining moments, just five minutes apart, Maradona said everything that could possibly be said about the equivocal nature of genius, and of football itself. For football is a game that shows up the flaws as well as the virtues of the people who play it: shows them in fact, in a preposterously high relief.

For football, like all other sports, is as fascinating to watch for the flaws it reveals, as for the moments of perfection these people can deliver. Cantona, Hick, Atherton,

Campese, Faldo, Schumacher, Navratilova: write your own list. The flaws are as compelling as the talents and, in a strange way, the flaws are an aspect of the talents.

Take the most obvious examples — the arrogance of Cantona, the competitive fire of Schumacher. They would not have committed their various crimes without such traits, but without them they would never have risen to such dizzy heights of achievement.

We must take our athletes all of a piece, and revel in them, slow to condemn, swift to enjoy. It has, for the English at least, been the other way round with Maradona. But at least they — we — have got there in the end. Master Inspirer of English Dreams.

Hendry aims to put Ferdinand under restraint

By Peter Ball

WITH only one point away from home so far, the reigning champions, Blackburn Rovers, could hardly be in worse fettle as they come face to face with Newcastle United, the favourites to lift their crown. On Sunday, they produced one of their worst performances of the season to lose at Everton. Tonight, they face a team reckoned by most to be the best in the country.

Newcastle will hope to seize the opportunity to go eight points clear at the top of the Premiership. "It's still a hard game for us," Kevin Keegan, their manager, said. "They are being written off. They are a little bit wounded, so they are a dangerous animal."

There could be no better place than St James' Park for Blackburn to rediscover the qualities which made them champions six months ago. "I think we'll play better than we did on Sunday," Colin Hendry, their Scottish international centre-half, said.

"There was a great atmosphere at Everton as there will be at Newcastle. The most important thing is that we show we were worthy of winning the championship."

Much may depend on Hendry's ability to shackle Les Ferdinand on a night when comparisons between the Newcastle striker and Alan Shearer are inevitable. Blackburn can take some heart from the fact that in spite of his team's poor form, Hendry's been unaffected. Flowers, in goal, appears to have recovered from his early season fumbles and played brilliantly

at Goodison. "Whatever happens, playing against the best strikers is a challenge to be relished," Hendry said.

More worryingly for Shearer, and for Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, has been the side's inability to create enough goal-scoring chances.

That has not helped Shearer, who must be aware of the pressure for Ferdinand to be included in the England team, although the incumbent has been scoring regularly enough despite the lack of support.

"How do you assess strikers?" Hendry asked. "Over a few games, over a season, or over a whole career? Les is playing in a successful team at the moment, and he is getting more attempts on goal because they are creating them."

One encouragement for Blackburn is that Le Saux may return for his first full game since recovering from injury, giving them a left-sided player. Newcastle will again be

without Lee Clark. Steve Watson, the scorer of the last-gasp goal which beat Liverpool last Saturday, or Scott Sellars, will come in.

Four days after Juninho's debut, Middlesbrough have another outstanding international ready to play his first game of the season.

Bryan Robson, the player-manager, is pressing himself into service against Crystal Palace in the Coca-Cola Cup replay at the Riverside Stadium because he is without six first-team players, including Juninho and Barnaby.

The Coca-Cola Cup is the only trophy which has eluded Robson, who said yesterday: "I wish it was the final. I hoped I might get by without having to play this season, but I always suspected it might come to this."

"I know I'll be nervous — I always am. At least the butterflies will go once the whistle blows, and that's better than sitting on edge in the dug-out for 90 minutes."

Robson's last first-team appearance was in Middlesbrough's final home game of last season, when they celebrated promotion with a 2-1 win over Luton.

Ray Lewington, the Crystal Palace manager, is hoping his side recapture the form which enabled them to beat Leicester two weeks ago.

"If we do, we have a chance of causing an upset," he said. Unfortunately, his main strikers, Gareth Taylor, signed from Bristol Rovers, and Dougie Freedman, from Barnet, are cup-tied.



Hendry: maintained form



Griggs is on the ball at Nene Park, the state-of-the-art stadium where Cardiff City will be entertained in the FA Cup on Saturday. Photograph: Gill Allen

Rushden's gem lets money do the talking

Keith Pike on the modest millionaire behind the realisation of a football fantasy in a backwater of Northamptonshire

He could have been the man next door: small, undistinguished, his tie badly knotted. His shoes needed a bit of polish, too, as he strolled the deserted corridors of Nene Park last week. But then the man next door is unlikely to be as softly-spoken, charming or downright ordinary as Max Griggs. Nor as rich.

Joint 52nd and rising in *The Sunday Times* list of Britain's wealthiest individuals, he has a personal fortune estimated at around £200 million. In football, where money talks loudest, Griggs could shout for England. Yet he prefers to whisper. For Rushden and Diamonds, and if the locals had their way, he would have letters after his name as well as millions. On Saturday, his legacy to the sport, and his community, will be granted a much wider audience.

When Cardiff City were paired with Rushden in the first round, an FA Cup tie of traditional contrasts was born: big-city barons against rural upstarts; former winners versus a team never before

past the qualifying rounds. And a club with real ambition taking on one hoping to make a killing... Cardiff, after all, need the money.

When the Welsh club and its followers arrive in east Northamptonshire, they can be excused a sharp, disbelieving intake of breath. Small and very nearly perfectly formed (the construction of a two-tier East Stand will complete the development), Nene Park is a modern marvel of football stadium architecture.

From the restaurants and banqueting suite to the marble staircase in reception; from the state-of-the-art gymnasium to the immaculate pitch, this is the club that Max's millions — eight and counting — built.

Griggs's dream was sparked by a telephone call four years ago, when Rushden Town were going nowhere fast in the Beazer Homes League midland divi-

sion, and, a couple of miles north, Irthlingborough Diamonds were going nowhere even faster, in the United Counties League. "It was Tony Jones, the chairman of Irthlingborough," Griggs recalled. "He was coming up to retirement and asked me if I was interested in becoming involved." Smart move. But Griggs said no.

Griggs, a Northampton Town supporter for 30 years and director between 1979 and 1985, had a vision, though. A merger. Cue much nashing of teeth. Football passions may not run hot in Northamptonshire, but the blue touch-paper of local pride was lit. The prize, however, was too big to resist. Hostilities ceased, and, in 1992, Rushden and Diamonds was born.

The resources, and the will, were at hand. When he retired as chairman of the R Griggs Group earlier this year — his son, Stephen, is now in charge

— Max Griggs left a firm producing around 220,000 pairs of shoes, boots and footwear fashion a week, with full order books and an annual turnover of £250 million. A family business, started by his grandfather in 1901, has, thanks in no small measure to the skinhead culture of the 1970s and its liking for Dr Martens boots, developed into a hugely successful company.

It is easy to be cynical, to perceive a lust for power and even greater riches, or a desire for recognition. Easy, and wrong. For Griggs, the merger was no more than an opportunity to put something back. "I never really wanted yachts in Monte Carlo," he said. "My roots are here. The challenge has been the creation of the club, and that's where I get my buzz. It is more than just football now, it is seeing people enjoying the facilities. And it is fun."

Griggs said he is happy,

through the company, to "provide that little bit extra" for the club. Hence the soccer skills schools and supporters' coaches laid on for home matches. Supporters in wheelchairs just happen to have the best view in the stadium, too. Of course, Griggs could write out a blank cheque to Roger Ashby, the team manager, and buy a team that would sail through the football pyramid, but "we don't want to do anything obscene". In any case, Rushden are doing nicely enough, their 5-1 win over Stafford Rangers on Saturday leaving them three points clear in the Beazer premier division, with games in hand.

The targets are moderate. A place in the Vauxhall Conference by 1997, and a place in the Football League by 2000. "Reaching the first division would be nice," Griggs said. "It all gets a bit serious in the Premier League." If he walked away tomorrow, the club would continue to thrive. He does not intend to. "My father had the fun of the business," he said. "This is my baby."

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SPEAR'S GAMES

Leeds try to tempt Brolin

By Peter Ball

TOMAS BROLIN, the Swedish international forward, flew back to Italy yesterday to consider a transfer to Leeds United after two days of talks with the Yorkshire club. Leeds are hoping to agree a fee with Brolin's club, Parma, the joint leaders of the Italian league.

"There is nothing concrete to report yet," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said before Brolin left yesterday. "I think the fact that Tomas is here is as surprising to him as to anybody else, and he has not had a lot of time to think about it."

Leeds do not expect Brolin to reach a decision before the weekend. If he does decide to move, a fee of something over £5 million is likely. "If this were a five-round fight, we have completed the first round and are ahead on points, but there is a lot of hard bargaining still to be done," Bill Fotherby, the Leeds managing director, said.

If the knock-out occurs, it would represent a significant coup for Leeds, who have been searching, without success, for a forward to play with Tony Yeboah, the striker, for several months. It is the second time they have approached Parma.

Leeds entered into long negotiations for the club's Colombia forward, Faustino Asprilla, which finally broke down.

Brolin may be the better option. He came to prominence as the outstanding discovery in an otherwise limited Sweden team in the 1990 World Cup, and was a member of the more successful team which reached the semi-finals of the European Championships two years later. In 1994 he scored three goals in the World Cup finals helping Sweden to take third place.

He has been on the fringe of the Parma first team this season after recovering from a broken ankle, but his finishing and eagerness to run at defenders would add an extra dimension to a hard-working, but limited, Leeds side. He favours playing behind the leading striker, but his quality would also take some of the responsibility off Yeboah, and raise some question about the futures of Brian Deane, David White and Rod Wallace.

Ian Rush, the Liverpool striker, has pulled out of the Wales squad for next week's European Championship qualifier against Albania, in Tirana through injury. Rush, who

was left out of the team named by manager Bobby Gould last week, was expected to make the journey as a coaching assistant.

However, he has now withdrawn from the trip. "I have a back and ankle injury," he said. "I've spoken to the club and to Bobby. He has asked me to join the squad until Monday to help out, but I will not be travelling with them when they go because the journey would not be good for my back."

Everton hope to end a 12-match ban on their striker, Duncan Ferguson, which was imposed by the Scottish Football Association (SFA), at an appeals tribunal in Glasgow today. Joe Royle, the Everton manager, and his chairman, Peter Johnson, visited Ferguson yesterday at Barlinnie Prison, in Glasgow, where the former Dundee United and Rangers player is serving a three-month sentence for an on-field assault.

They are hoping the SFA lift the ban, 11 matches of which remain, or allow it to run concurrently with the prison sentence. "I feel very strongly that Duncan should be only punished once," Johnson said.

Moulard affronted as Woosnam backs out

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN SHENZHEN, CHINA

BAD BACKS are the bane of golfers — and tournament organisers. On Sunday, Ian Woosnam pulled out of the World Cup, which starts at the Mission Hills club here tomorrow, saying that his back was bad after a last round of 77 in the Alfred Dunhill Masters in Jakarta.

Heineken, sponsoring the World Cup for the last time, are also coming to the end of a three-year deal with the Welshman to play in their events and were diplomatically sympathetic. Tony Roosenburg, the tournament organiser, said: "We're very disappointed."

"Ian's been a great supporter of ours over many years and he's never, ever pulled out of a Heineken event before. We all know flying's no good for backs and at this stage we have to believe the ailment's genuine."

Mark Moulard, Woosnam's would-be partner, was less charitable. "Bad back? He's got a bad head and too fat a wallet. He's let Wales down, he's let me down, he's let himself down and he's let his supporters down."

Moulard finished second in Jakarta and with £1 million in prize-money on offer this week he had visions of the Welsh doing rather nicely. As he said, Woosnam — who was to be paid a sum in the region of £50,000 just to appear — is not a bad man to have on your side. "Any time you play with Woosie, you think you've got half a chance if you can play half-decent yourself. In Jakarta he was still eight under par with four holes to play, so he wasn't playing badly. I rang him as soon as I heard he was going home but he said he'd made up his mind and I'd be better off playing with someone else."

Woosnam, who is still scheduled to play in the Dunlop Phoenix tournament, the richest in Japan, in Miyazaki next week, may have a little debt made in his wallet if the PGA European Tour tournament committee decides that his late withdrawal was an embarrassment to the Tour.

Meanwhile, Phillip Price, who partnered Woosnam in this event in 1991 and 1994, was heading for China as the latest of late replacements.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 1995
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Blood sample clouds Double Trigger's Melbourne Cup failure

Vintage Crop applauded in defeat

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
IN MELBOURNE

A LIFELESS run in controversial circumstances by Double Trigger was more than compensated by another inspirational effort from Vintage Crop, the Irish challenger, who barnstormed his way into third behind Doremius after a tardy start in the Foster's Melbourne Cup here yesterday.

Double Trigger's attempt to register Britain's first victory in Australia's most famous race almost came to nothing even before he set foot on Flemington racetrack. His participation, after two "irregular" blood tests, was secured only after Mark Johnston, his Middleham-based trainer, gave an assurance that no medication had been recently administered to the Ascot Gold Cup winner.

The controversy might have hinged at what was to follow.

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4.20pm FOSTER'S MELBOURNE CUP
Handicap (2,000m) 10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920-1921-1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927-1928-1929-1930-1931-1932-1933-1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944-1945-1946-1947-1948-1949-1950-1951-1952-1953-1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1965-1966-1967-1968-1969-1970-1971-1972-1973-1974-1975-1976-1977-1978-1979-1980-1981-1982-1983-1984-1985-1986-1987-1988-1989-1990-1991-1992-1993-1994-1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-2310-2311-2312-2313-2314-2315-2316-2317-2318-2319-2320-2321-2322-2323-2324-2325-2326-2327-2328-2329-2330-2331-2332-2333-2334-2335-2336-2337-2338-2339-2340-2341-2342-2343-2344-2345-2346-2347-2348-2349-2350-2351-2352-2353-2354-2355-2356-2357-2358-2359-2360-2361-2362-2363-2364-2365-2366-2367-2368-2369-2370-2371-2372-2373-2374-2375-2376-2377-2378-2379-2380-2381-2382-2383-2384-2385-2386-2387-2388-2389-2390-2391-2392-2393-2394-2395-2396-2397-2398-2399-2400-2401-2402-2403-2404-2405-2406-2407-2408-2409-2410-2411-2412-2413-2414-2415-2416-2417-2418-2419-2420-2421-2422-2423-2424-2425-2426-2427-2428-2429-2430-2431-2432-2433-2434-2435-2436-2437-2438-2439-2440-2441-2442-2443-2444-2445-2446-2447-2448-2449-2450-2451-2452-2453-2454-2455-2456-2457-2458-2459-2460-2461-2462-2463-2464-2465-2466-2467-2468-2469-2470-2471-2472-2473-2474-2475-2476-2477-2478-2479-2480-2481-2482-2483-2484-2485-2486-2487-2488-2489-2490-2491-2492-2493-2494-2495-2496-2497-2498-2499-2500-2501-2502-2503-2504-2505-2506-2507-2508-2509-2510-2511-2512-2513-2514-2515-2516-2517-2518-2519-2520-2521-2522-2523-2524-2525-2526-2527-2528-2529-2530-2531-2532-2533-2534-2535-2536-2537-2538-2539-2540-2541-2542-2543-2544-2545-2546-2547-2548-2549-2550-2551-2552-2553-2554-2555-2556-2557-2558-2559-2560-2561-2562-2563-2564-2565-2566-2567-2568-2569-2570-2571-2572-2573-2574-2575-2576-2577-2578-2579-2580-2581-2582-2583-2584-2585-2586-2587-2588-2589-2590-2591-2592-2593-2594-2595-2596-

Wasim working to swing sentiment

Michael Henderson finds the Pakistan captain keen to take the heat out of the series in Australia

The captaincy of Pakistan should carry a health warning. Given the demands of the job, in a land where cricket often seems to be foreign policy continued by other means, nobody can expect to do it for long and few do. Since the Berlin Wall came down there has been nothing to touch Pakistan cricket for double dealing and mendacity yet Wasim Akram has just accepted the job for the second time. There must be a reason.

In the short term it is a purely practical one. He wants to sort out a sorry mess. A year after beating Australia at home in a Test series disfigured by retrospective allegations of bribery, and counter-allegations of lying, Pakistan are paying a return visit. Already there is an unresolved ball-tampering row fouling the air, just what everybody wanted before the first Test, which starts in Brisbane tomorrow.

But it is the longer term responsibility that interests Wasim who, at 29, is at the height of his considerable powers. He knows the image of Pakistan cricket is poor and admits: "My main mission is to restore our reputation." For everybody's sake he must succeed, or else the cricket world could be torn asunder.

Until the ICC becomes a truly executive body, instead of a talking-shop, the responsibility lies with the players of all countries to do what is best for the game. Wasim, wiser than when he first took the job three years ago, is keen to play his part and nobody doubts where Mark Taylor, his Australian counterpart, stands.

Wasim, ever courteous, cuts an urbane figure. Listening to him talk about the three Tests that lie ahead, one almost forgets that the teams taking part are cricket's bitterest enemies, with a charge sheet that stretches back 20 years. He prefers to recall the friendly spirit that prevailed in Pakistan last year, notwithstanding its unsavoury consequences, and hopes that spirit can be revived.

He is confident he has "got" the dressing-room. "The politics has gone and this really looks like being a fresh start. There used to be groups within the team but people have



Wasim Akram, a great bowler in a second spell as his country's captain, is pledged to redeem the reputation of Pakistan cricket

realised there were mistakes made. This is not a school team any more, where people are told 'do this and do that'. Everything is much more professional and so long as people give all they have, then nobody can complain."

Wasim can set an example with his own bowling which, nobody needs reminding, is magnificent. There have been few bowlers in history as supremely talented as he is, an absolute master of his craft. Furthermore, without bragging, he knows it and has trained his sights accordingly.

"I am aiming for the world record number of Test wickets," he said. "There's no point just saying 'I'll try to get 350' and ending up with 320. I have 270 and at 29 I still have three or

four years to take another 160. My action doesn't take that much out of me. I don't need to run 20 yards, like some fast bowlers, and I am enjoying bowling with the new ball. Just by altering my wrist action I have learnt how to swing it more, into the batsman as well as away."

Indeed Wasim can swing the ball, old or new; cut it; operate on either side of the wicket; off short run or long; and exploit changes of flight, length and angle. He can fox batsmen with as many different types of ball as there are balls in an over. This is what makes him such a rare, possibly unique figure in Test history.

Confident in his own ability, he is trying to instil the same quality in a

team that has just lost a home series, somewhat ignominiously, to Sri Lanka. "I have told the six batsmen they will play. If they know they are not on trial they will have more confidence to play their natural game. This team is the cream of Pakistan cricket and although it is a hard game they need to enjoy it."

As ever, they have the knack of finding players in unsuspected places. The latest is Mohammed Akram, 21, a fast bowler from Rawalpindi, who replaced the injured Waqar Younis against Sri Lanka. During a spell with Gloucestershire's second team he was coached by Courtney Walsh, whose high arm action he has moulded on to a delivery that owes something to Michael Holding. There is also talk

of a 17-year-old fast bowler, Mohammad Zahid, who is not here but has shown promise during practice sessions at home. He will get his chance sooner rather than later.

"You can't just wait until these bowlers are 25 and then pick them then," Wasim, who was thrown into international cricket as a teenager and prospered, said.

At the moment he is speaking in the present tense, determined to soften the hard public edges of Pakistan cricket. "We play very aggressively but we must be aggressive in the right way. I think this series will be friendly. The teams have known each other for some time and everybody got on well last year. We will not do anything daft on the field and may be best team win."

An update on the Crusades

Crusade: The Road to Byzantium. Radio 4, 7.45pm.

I have heard only snippets from Norman Winter's two-part documentary about Christendom's so-called holy wars against the infidel. But this much seems clear: this is much more than a chronological profile-and-loss account of who did what to whom, and why, where and how. The subjects suggest that Winter's objectives were to give Christian and Muslim equal air time, and put the Crusades into a perspective that brings their legacies up to date. He has achieved the first objective by pairing a Christian (Martin Palmer) with a Muslim (Fazlun Khalid), and sending them off on the Crusaders' trails. The second is attained by ensuring that the two good companions meet people who have learnt that today is an updated yesterday and that tomorrow never comes.

Purcell's London. BBC World Service, 9.30pm.

Robert King squeezes this account of Purcell's music and city into 30 minutes of air time. What we hear tonight is just the first instalment of five. It is an appetiser and, as such, is skilfully done. Starting with Purcell's teenage years as chorister in the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, it ends with his funeral in Westminster Abbey — the same abbey in which he was organist for five years. The musical extracts are from his church music. In the coming weeks, we will be reminded — as his church music — of Purcell's astounding versatility.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Chris Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Foxton, and at 12.30-12.45 Newsbeat; and at 1.15 The Net 2.00pm Kevin Greening 4.00 Mark Goodier, and at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Best Bits from Last Week's Radio 1 10.00 Mark Radcliffe Midnight Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.00 Wake Up to Wigan 8.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Ed Doolan 2.00pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd 8.00 Fisher's Folk Steps 8.30 Lucie Shappling's Celtic 7.25 Faith 7.30 Multitask 8.00 India 9.30 Nigel Ogden 10.30 The Jamieson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, and at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.35 The Magazine, with Dana Mead, and at 10.35 Euronews; and at 11.00 News, National History 12.00 Midday with Mark Radcliffe 12.45pm Moneycheck; and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Ruoco on Five, and at 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide, and at 4.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Trevor Brooking's Football Night 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy War 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Rasmussen 4.00 Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner 7.00 Sean Soger 8.00 Muz Dee 10.00 James White 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am News 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 News 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Endless Knot 7.30 Discovery 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Vail of Happiness 8.45 The Secret Life of a Song 9.00 German 9.15 Andy Kennedy's World of Music 9.45 Sport 10.00 News 10.30 English 10.45 Off the Shelf: The Endless Knot 11.00 News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Composer of the Month 1.00 News 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Magazine 3.00 News in German 3.15 General Collection 4.00 News 4.15 World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Sport 6.00 News 6.30 News in German 7.00 Outlook 7.25 Faith 7.30 Multitask 8.00 India 9.30 News 9.05 News 9.15 Britain 9.30 Purcell's London: See Choice 10.00 News 10.30 The World Home 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.05am Pop Shot 11.15 Sport 11.45 From Our Own Correspondent 11.45 Night News 12.00am The Secret Life of a Song 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.15 Press 1.15 News 1.35 Just a Taste 1.45 Country Style 2.00 News 2.30 Sport 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Assignment 4.00 News 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Early Breakfast 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crook 4.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata 7.00 General Collection 7.30 News 8.00 Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Sally Pearson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' John 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Roger 7.00 Peter 10.00 James Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

5.55am Weather 6.00 On Air: Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 3 in G major, BWV 1048) (Piano Sonata No 3 in F minor, Op 5) 7.05 Symphony Series: Mozart (Symphony No 19 in E flat), Orff (Stück für Orchester in E, Op 38) Handel (Coronation Anthem No 1: Zadok the Priest); Bartok (Flight of the Bumblebee) 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, Rossini (Overture: William Tell); Anon (Two Episodes); Duparc (Le Violoncelle seul); Liszt (Symphonie espagnole) 10.00 Musical Encounters: Weber (Overture: Oberon); Miroslav Sladice (Old Serbian song); 10.30 Artist of the Week: Gwyneth Brooke, bassoon, J.C. Bach (Concerto in B flat); 10.55 Christopher Shaw (Musical when soft voices die); Lambert (Ballet: Tiresias) 12.00 Fareast: Composer of the Week: Bridge (Goldenhour, Piano Sonata; Rhapsody: Enter Spring) 1.00pm Concert Hall: The Argentine pianist Nelson Goerner plays Chopin 2.00 Scholes: Together 2.20 Time and Tune 2.40 Drama Workshop 3.00 Midweek Choice: Haydn (Missa brevis in F); Lukas Foss (Three American Pieces) 4.00 Choral Evensong, from St George's Chapel, Windsor 5.00 The Music Machine: Tommy Pearson finds that playing hockey is not just a musical pastime from 12th-century Paris 5.15 In Tune, with Jeremy Nicholas: Mozart (Overture: Die Entführung aus dem Serail)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing, and 6.05 Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day, with the Rev Alan Field 6.30 Today and 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 9.05 Midweek, with Times correspondent Libby Purves and guests 10.00-10.30 News: Just a Part of the Furniture (FM only), The Bath (2/3) 10.30 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 This Scepter'd Isle (LW only) The Scottish Reel and the seeds of the Civil War 10.30 Woman's Hour: Introduced by Jenni Murray. Serial: Ladder of Years. Liza Rose reads Anne Tyler's portrait of a heroine of our time. Narrated by Pat McLoughlin (11/13) 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time. Questions from members of the Saughall Gardening Club in Cheshire (1) 12.00 News; You and Yours with Chris Cleave 12.25 Moving: Breaking Up. Final episode in Neil McKay's comedy drama series 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; 4 New Comedies on 4: Bill and Koo, written by Janet Paisley and Graham McKelvie 2.45 Treasure Islands, Series about children's books, presented by Michael Rosen 3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Bresnan

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini reviews director Basil Dearden's new film and sees Kenny Dalglish in A Walk in the Clouds 4.45 Short Story: A Chemical Cat. Margaret Tisdale reads Mary Jones's story 5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Linda Lewis 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Round Britain Quiz: The London team faces a team from the North in a return match (1) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Points of Descent. Michael Burk examines why James Cameron's writing is so highly regarded. With readings by Slava Terkel and John Tusa (1/7) 7.45 Crusade. See Choice 8.30 UK pic. Dieter Helm continues his analysis of British economic life (4/6) 9.00 Costing the Earth. Questions from the Whitaker 9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The Tonight Show, with Janet Jones 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Right Seat, by Bill Williams. Nigel Anthony reads the first of three episodes (1) 11.00 Late Edition (4/6) 11.30 Book at Bedtime... by the Way, with Richard Ingram, John Wells, Joan Sims and Jane Whitfield (1) 12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book: Dr Haggard's Disease. Patrick McGarr reads from his most recent book (3/10) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 News World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.9-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 198. (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8. MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO. FM 105.8. 1085. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Mackay, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Malcolm finds fast track back into Test reckoning

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DEVON MALCOLM made the England batsmen duck for cover in the nets at Kimberley yesterday and was rewarded with a pat on the back from Raymond Illingworth, the tour manager.

Given a reasonably quick and bouncy pitch on which to bowl for the first time since arriving in South Africa nearly three weeks ago, Malcolm showed what he could do.

It was an uncomfortable yet valuable experience for some of his teammates. Illingworth, watching from

behind the net, had every reason to enjoy the practice session. "That's the first time you've seen Devon come off his long run and put it in," the manager said. "If he can bowl like that I'll be happy. He looked quite impressive today."

Words of praise for Malcolm have been uttered infrequently on this tour. Illingworth and Peter Lever, the bowling coach, announced last week that they had abandoned their experiment to change the Derbyshire bowler's action, indicating he was either unable or unwilling to cooperate.

There is no doubt, however, that the England management wants the 32-year-old strike bowler to prove he is worth a place in the first Test next week. One encouraging net session will not settle the argument, but a good performance against South Africa A in the four-day match starting tomorrow would almost certainly suffice. "It is a big game for Devon," Illingworth said.

The good news for Malcolm — and for Robin Smith, for that matter — is that the Kimberley Sports Ground pitch prepared by Fred Swarbrook, the former Derbyshire left-arm spin-

ner, is likely to be as quick as the pitches in the nets yesterday.

Swarbrook, who emigrated to South Africa several years ago, may have done both players a big favour. Smith, despite first-class scores to date of four, nought and nought, looked as confident as any batsman during the practice session and is at his best when the ball "comes on." "The net pitches were outstanding," he said. "I hope the match pitch is just the same."

Like Malcolm, Smith must show he deserves Test selection. "We are trying to give him every chance,"

Illingworth said. John Crawley, who showed tremendous determination when scoring 85 in Soweto and 108 in East London, is being rested and can do no more now to state his case. The likely contenders for the last bowling place, Mike Watkinson and Mark Illot, both line up tomorrow.

ENGLAND XI (from): M A Atherton (captain), A J Stewart, M R Ramprakash, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R A Smith, R C Russell, M Wattinson, D Gough, A C Fraser, D E Malcolm, M G Kott.

SOUTH AFRICA XI (from): M A Atherton (captain), A J Stewart, M R Ramprakash, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R A Smith, R C Russell, M Wattinson, D Gough, A C Fraser, D E Malcolm, M G Kott.

Irani puts England A in winning position

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

RONNIE IRANI, the Essex all-rounder, produced a spell of five for 14 to help put England A into a convincing position going into the final day of their four-day tour match against a Combined XI in Karachi. Aided by Ian Salisbury, the Sussex leg spinner, who recorded figures of three for 71, the home side were reduced to 279 for nine, a lead of 103.

In a devastating second spell, Irani, a brisk medium-paced bowler, took four wickets in 24 balls while conceding only two runs. Only a stoical, unbeaten, Illi by Mohammed Ramzan, the opening batsman, spared the Combined XI

from greater embarrassment in their second innings.

It proved to be a good day all round for England. Starting at an overnight total of 279 for nine, they were given an unexpected boost as the last pair — Ed Giddins, of Sussex, and Shaun Udall, of Hampshire — added 33 invaluable runs. Udall reached an impressive half-century, amassed from 136 balls and including five fours, before he fell victim to the off spin of Nadeem Khan.

Udall, the off spinner, then returned to the fray to give the tour team the breakthrough they wanted when he had Shahid Anwar, the in-form opening batsman, caught by Dominic Ostler when the total was 53. From then on, Salisbury and Irani shared the wickets. Shoaib Mohammad was dismissed for seven and Sohail Jaffer, Ather Laeeq and Nadeem were all out without scoring.

As the parade of batsmen continued almost unabated, many perishing through their own carelessness or lack of application, Ramzan continued his solo act of defiance which, by the close, had extended to 325 minutes and been illuminated by 14 fours.

At times it appeared as if the match was being played between just three players, so dominant were the contributions of Irani, Salisbury and Ramzan.

Mike Smith, the Gloucestershire left-arm seam bowler, who bowled just three overs early in the innings, continued to struggle with a side strain he sustained on the first day. He did not bowl at all later in the innings, but was able to field from lunch through to the close.

India recall Hirwani to partner Kumble

NARENDRA HIRWANI, recalled to Test cricket after a five-year absence, will be one of two leg spinners in the India team to play New Zealand in the third and final Test in Cuttack that begins today.

He will partner Anil Kumble, whose faster, flatter deliveries contrast with Hirwani's orthodox, flighty style which earned him 16 wickets on his Test debut against West Indies in 1987.

Hirwani earned his long-awaited recall — he toured Australia in 1992 but failed to make the Test side — at the expense of the left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju.

India, leading 1-0 in the series, had already replaced Rajesh Chaudhan, their off spinner, bringing in Aashish Kapoor.

India have opted for two leg spinners on a new Cuttack pitch which the New Zealand coach, Glenn Turner, said appeared like "rolled mud" and would deteriorate. With this in mind, Turner will be hoping that his off spinner, Shane Thomson, who has a cut finger, will be fit.

NEW ZEALAND (from): L K Germann (captain), M G Crowe, S A Parsons, M D Crowe, S P Fleming, S A Thompson, C Cairns, D J Nash, M Hart, D K Mead, M Ashworth (captain), M Parnham, A D Jackson, N S Sirohi, S R Tendulkar, V G Karmali, N R Mongia, A R Kapoor, A R Kumble, J Srinath, N D Hewari.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

TENENTE

(1) A lieutenant, from Italian and Portuguese.

WICKMANITE

(4) A cubic hydroxide of manganese and tin, Mn₃(OH)₆, found as small yellowish or colorless octahedral crystals. An epitaxial of F-E Wicksman, born 1915, the Swedish mineralogist. The "Wicksmanite, Mn₃(OH)₆, schoenfliesite, Mg₃(OH)₆, and manganese schoenfliesite occur in separate low-temperature parageneses in hydrothermally mineralised skarns at Pitkin, Colorado.

SEABEES

(4) Members of the Construction Battalions formed as a volunteer branch of the Civil Engineer Corps of the US Navy. A vocalised acronym of the initials letters of (Construction) (Battalion) (s).

SOLON

(4) Colloquially, in the US, with a small initial, in weakened sense, a legislator, usually a Congressman. An acronym from Solon, one of the several alleged founders of democracy in ancient Athens. The acronym is unfair to Solon, even though he was not exactly a democrat.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Rh2+! 2 Kd2 (2 Nd2 2 Qd2 mate) 2... Qxb2 3 Kh1 Qxcl+ 4 Kg2 Qgl+ 5 Kf3 Qgl+ winning.

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SEIKO KINETIC

The managers who sold themselves short

Look, I've always been an advocate of gratuitous nudity on television, so we'll say no more about the young man who suddenly wandered through *Death of a Bank Manager* (BBC2) last night, naked as the day she was first overdrawn and clutching only a candle. Probably looking for her cheque book.

But what really has me stumped were the car parks, miles and miles of under-occupied, white-lined tarmac. Here was this fascinating story, the virtual disappearance of an entire section of middle-class, middle-income, middle management from Middle England, and where was Chris Petit, the director? In the car park, practising his tracking shots.

No sooner has some poor old chap (and they were all chaps) finished relating an account of the misery that high street banking had become in the 1980s, than wham! — it was car park time

again. And if we passed one space, we passed a thousand. "There — what's wrong with that one?" I shouted, but to no avail. On we went, our progress unimpeded only by the single words that were superimposed from time to time, like some exquisite form of slow-motion subliminal torture. "Confidence" would flash up, followed a few seconds later by "crick".

But never let it be said that Petit is a film-maker who doesn't acknowledge creative debts. As the final credits rolled, his first thanks went not to the cast of embittered bankers, nor to the underpaid brunettes, but to the Aztec West business park, purveyor of fine car park vistas to the media.

The surprising thing is that the central story of the bank managers' demise survived everything that Petit could throw in its path — car parks, old black and white film clips, even the reappearance of

that most overused of banking clichés, Captain Mainwaring. The decline was a slow one — at least initially. Direct payment systems brought the working classes into the banking system, which must have been a terrible shock. Then, along came anti-bank legislation, which removed the manager and his workforce from all their customers, class notwithstanding. The 1970s brought computerisation, signalling an end to the meticulous but time-consuming book-keeping on which so many careers had been founded.

But it was the arrival of American management practices in the 1980s, along with the attendant buzz words — performance, service and, above all, targets — that crushed the spirit of a banking generation. Suddenly, their long-treasured position as "the high street's most trusted adviser" was gone. They



Matthew Bond

had become salesmen, selling, as one former manager bitterly put it, financial products that people didn't need to people who couldn't afford them.

The recession sparked the inevitable shake-out. Stress levels and early retirements soared. One manager monitored the situation in his staff newsletter: retirements rose from 15-20 a month to hundreds. "A whole generation of

bank managers and bankers disappeared in about six months." An extraordinary story and a fascinating film — just a shame we spent so much of it in the car park.

No sign of either bank managers or car parks in *Network First: The Gentry* (ITV). As the world's richest man, Paul Getty had no need of the former, while Studio Z, makers of this mammoth project, had no time for the latter. Just running through the principal family members took up several valuable minutes.

The Getty family story is a story of almost biblical proportions, with John Pauls-begging-John Pauls all over the place, everyone marrying several times and tragedy lurking around every corner. It is a story that has been told many times before, but rarely, I suspect, in a form as accessible as this.

Last night, friends (some of whom probably require quotation marks around the designation),

colleagues, mistresses and assorted junior members of the family provided fascinating accounts of the life and times of Paul Getty, who died — fantastically rich and increasingly mean — 20 years ago. Getty, we were comfortingly reminded, was second-generation wealthy, his father having assembled a fortune of some \$10 million by the time he died in 1930.

The fact that he left only \$500,000 to his son, as punishment for his teenage bride-chasing ways (three in seven years), was rather by the way. I'm sure the first million was still the hardest, but it can't have been that difficult when you're halfway there to start with — especially when your mother makes over the rest of it in time to go bargain-hunting through the Depression.

The film archives had been skilfully and rewardingly plundered to bring the story to life, with

the black and white footage of a lonely old man plodding around Sutton Court matched by the painfully poignant, swinging 1960s footage of the fabulously glamorous but ill-fated marriage of John Paul Jr and Talitha Pol. It left you feeling glad that Mick Jagger introduced him to cricket.

Similar "if only" thoughts ran through *Without Walls: My Generation* (Channel 4), which took a timely look at the Small Faces, a group enjoying new-found popularity as the great-grandfathers of Britpop. If only they hadn't been ripped off by two managers, if only Steve Marriott hadn't left in 1969, if only Ronnie Lane hadn't developed multiple sclerosis, if only Marriott hadn't died in a house fire four years ago... It should have been depressing television and it was, rather. But the music was terrific.

● Lynne Truss is on holiday

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

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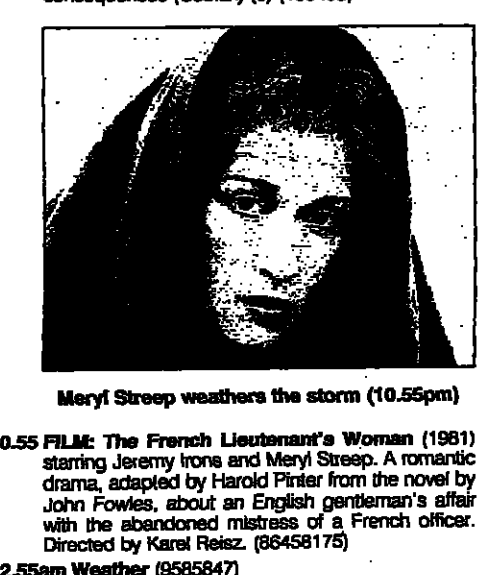
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● Lynne Truss is on holiday

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (14750)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (34800311)
9.10am Killy (s) (4440779)
10.00am News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5997330) 10.05am Housemates (s) (3285773)
10.30am Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (4708446)
12.00am News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5997330) 12.05pm Pebble Mill Shirley MacLaine is a guest (s) (4958330) 12.50 Regional News (5997330)
1.00pm One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (19156)
1.30pm Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (30265069)
1.50pm Hawkeye. Adventure series (s) (583156)
2.25pm Holiday (s) (Ceefax) (s) (2722424) 3.05pm Incognito (s) (1296585)
3.30pm Ants in Your Pants (s) (5784040) 3.50pm The West (s) (s) (5771576) 4.10pm Get Your Own Back (Ceefax) (s) (423427) 4.35pm Pirates. Last in the series (Ceefax) (s) (1038068)
5.00pm Newsround (Ceefax) (8070175)
5.10pm Blue Peter (s) (5866578)
5.35pm Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (340494)
6.00pm Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (595)
6.30pm Regional news magazines (175) Northern Ireland: Neighbours 6.57pm Inside Ulster News (Ceefax) (s) (7882)
7.00pm This is Your Life. Introduced by Michael Aspel (Ceefax) (s) (7882)
7.30pm Here and Now. News and issues magazine. Tonight, reports on how rich lenders are paid a total of £100 million not to destroy wildlife sites. And as people are on average taller than 100 years ago, should football goals be made larger, in order to increase the number of goals scored? Presented by Sue Lawley (s) (359)
8.00pm How Do They Do That? Last in the series, presented by Eamonn Holmes and Jenny Hull, including the secrets of how the cast of *Pride and Prejudice* learned authentic, early 19th-century walking and talking. (Ceefax) (s) (302682)
8.45pm Point of View, with Anne Robinson. (Ceefax) (s) (58935)
9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6175)
9.30pm One Foot in the Grave: Who Will Buy? Comedy repeat with Richard Wilson, Annette Crosbie, Janie Davids, Angus Deayton and Jimmy Jewel (Ceefax) (s) (50868)
10.00pm People's Century. 1933 — Master Race. The social history of the past 95 years uses archive film and personal testimony to show how the Nazis put across their message of a master race in the 1930s, and how millions either welcomed it or suffered the consequences (Ceefax) (s) (186408)

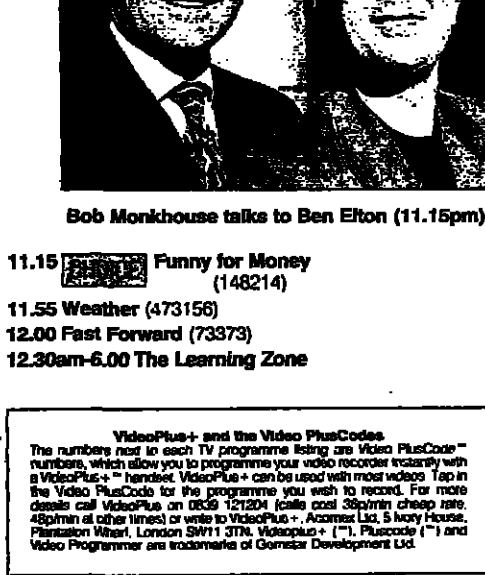


Meryl Streep weathers the storm (10.55pm)

10.55pm **FILM:** *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1981) starring Jeremy Irons and Meryl Streep. A romantic drama, adapted by Harold Pinter from the novel by John Fowles, about an English gentleman's affair with the abandoned mistress of a French officer. Directed by Karel Reisz. (86458175)

12.55am Weather (585847)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Perpetual Motion (48205) 6.30 The Net (89175)
7.00am Breakfast News. (4134663)
7.15pm Lassie (7151068) 7.40 The Legend of Prince Valiant (s) (s) (1376446) 8.05pm It'll Never Work (s) (s) (300682)
8.35pm The Record. Yesterday in Parliament (s) (438386)
9.00pm Daytime on Two. Educational programmes Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (8966929)
2.00pm Johnson and Friends (s) (s) (4710348)
2.10pm Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased). (s) (8180205)
3.00pm News. Hare Krishnas: Hiders and Seekers (7027514) 3.55pm News (Ceefax) (6972040)
4.00pm Today's the Day. (s) (208) 4.30pm Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (572) 5.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show. What makes children happy? (4749553) 5.40pm Unspeakable Verse. (323632) 5.55pm Cooking Passions. Potato and eggplant curry (800224)
6.00pm Star Trek: The Next Generation. Science-fiction adventure series starring Patrick Stewart (Ceefax) (s) (973408)
6.45pm **FILM:** *The Brain Eaters* (1958, b/w). Sci-fi drama starring Edwin Nelson. Parasites from the Earth's core attach themselves to people's heads and turn them into zombies. Bruno De Sota directs (1531021)
7.50pm Life's a Lottery. How does winning the National Lottery affect your life? Three lottery winners talk about instant wealth (s) (973224)
8.00pm Delta Smith's Winter Collection: Proper Puddings and Sunday Lunch. Roast beef and all the trimmings: gingerbread pudding, custard, bread-and-butter pudding. (Ceefax) (s) (4972)
8.30pm University Challenge. The London School of Economics v Keele College, Oxford. (Ceefax) (1308)
9.00pm **FILM:** *Modern Times: Tony Wives*. (Ceefax) (s) (278588)
9.50pm **FILM:** *My Secret Life: Dangerous When Bored*. A profile of a high-flying professional who takes a variety of drugs. (Ceefax) (s) (682038)
10.00pm Grace Under Fire. American comedy series starring Brett Butler. (Ceefax) (s) (20137)
10.30pm Newsnight. Presented by Jeremy Paxman. (Teletext) (155758)

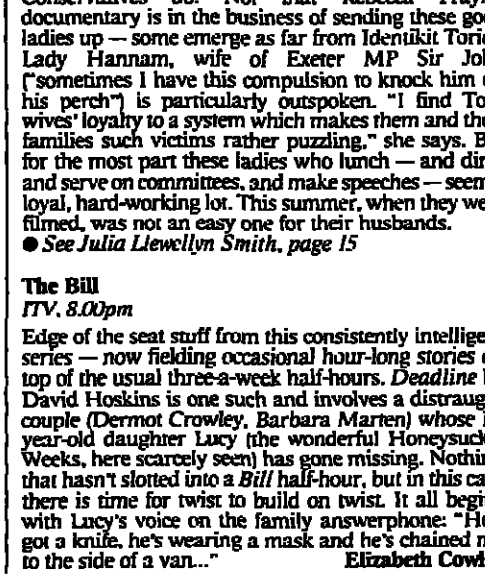


Bob Monkhouse talks to Ben Elton (11.15pm)

11.15pm **Funny for Money** (14214)
11.55pm Weather (473156)
12.00am Fast Forward (73373)
12.30am 6.00 The Learning Zone

12.55am Weather (585847)

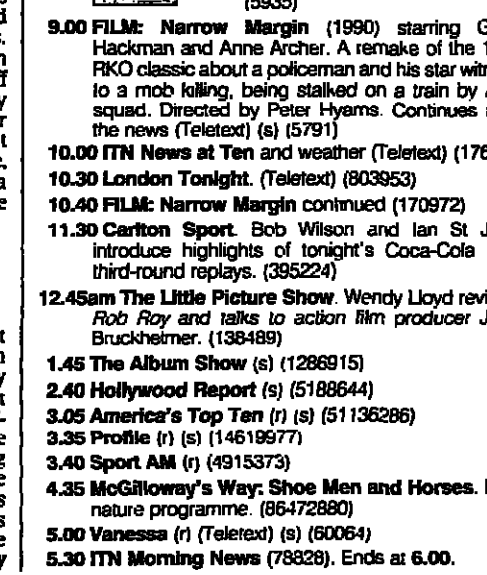
- CHOICE**
- The Real Holiday Show**
Channel 4, 8.30pm
Something awful this way comes — at least that's what the viewer gleefully expects when amateurs with cameras and a horror stories go to the guidebooks said would happen. As horror stories go, it would be hard to beat the four galling factory girls from Corby — targeting Gumbert in Turkey for "fun, fun, fun — men, men, men". Their flinch-making behaviour is uninhibited, crude, and very, very funny. Other stories include the saga of white witch Valerie who, with her husband, blind husband Wolfram, cycled a total of 807 miles through Germany to visit Wolfram's mother in the Black Forest. Mum turned out to be "a bloody tyrant and a lunatic".
- Funny for Money**
BBC2, 11.15pm
"He's agile, adept, adroit... he's Mr Ben Elton," glows Bob Monkhouse in uncharacteristically low-key mode as he introduces the many-faced star. Elton is there to look like himself, the two fast-track jokers from different generations colliding to upstage each other. As a bestselling novelist and scriptwriter as well as stand-up comic, Elton proves rich ground for Monkhouse to plough — and he ploughs it like a pro. Hecklers? "They haunt me," says Ben. "Sadly the really witty heckler is in a million." Audiences? "I have too much respect to experiment on them." "Tony Cooper, 'Monkey Cooper', 'Monkey and Wise...' (What, no Monkhouse?) Thoughtful, never dull, this has the earmarks of a pilot.

Gaby Roslin, right, in *Majorca* (8.30pm)

11.15pm **Funny for Money** (14214)
11.55pm Weather (473156)
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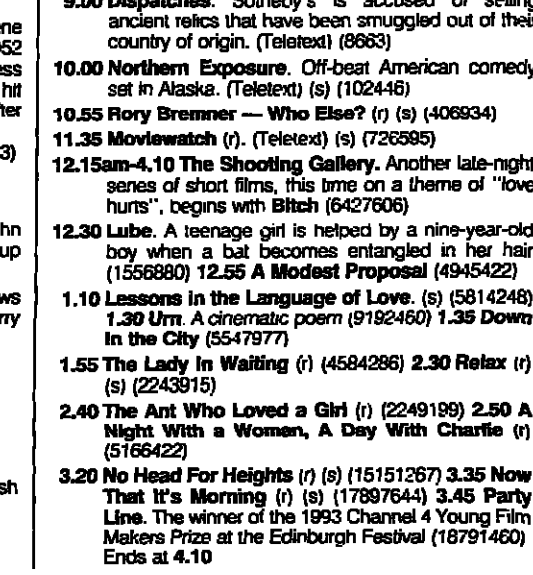
- CARLTON**
- 6.00am GMTV (9144069)
9.25pm Supermarket Sweep quiz show (s) (9493953)
9.55pm London Today (Teletext) (3580066)
10.00pm The... The Place (s) (5010243)
10.35pm This Morning Magazine show (72134205)
12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (9688666)
12.30pm ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) (9621330)
12.55pm Home and Away (Teletext) (9806021)
1.25pm Coronation Street (s) (Teletext) (84393309)
1.55pm Shortland Street (9205324)
2.20pm Vanessa: Odd Couples (Teletext) (s) (70202953)
2.50pm Material World: Different for Girls (2763595)
3.20pm ITN News headlines (Teletext) (8965311)
3.25pm London Today (Teletext) (8964682)
3.30pm Alphabet Castle (s) 3.40pm Wizard (s) (6182137)
3.50pm The Story Store (s) (5934392) 4.05pm Animaniacs (s) (Teletext) (s) (5160779) 4.15pm TIGS (s) (499553) 4.45pm Bad Influence (s) (1032021)
5.10pm After 5 with Caron Keating. China Black perform their new single live in the studio. (Teletext) (7003359)
5.40pm News and weather (327408)
5.55pm Your Showtimes' opinions (897750)
6.00pm Home and Away. Alas tells Alf she thinks their marriage is over and the mystery of the anonymous caller deepens (s) (Teletext) (663)
6.30pm London Tonight. Regional news followed by London weather. (Teletext) (243)
7.00pm Wheel of Fortune. Game show (s) (2750)
7.30pm Coronation Street. All is not well at the Rovers Return. (Teletext) (427)



Shaun Scott (Shaun Scott) makes an arrest (8.00pm)

8.00pm **The Bill: Deadline**. (Teletext) (5935)
9.00pm **FILM:** *Narrow Margin* (1990) starring Gene Hackman and Anne Archer. A remake of the 1952 RKO classic about a policeman and his star witness to a mob killing, being stalked on a train by a hit squad. Directed by Peter Hyams. Continues after the news (Teletext) (s) (5791)
10.00pm ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (17663)
10.30pm London Tonight. (Teletext) (803953)
10.40pm **FILM:** *Narrow Margin* continued (170972)
11.30pm Carlton Sport. Bob Wilson and Ian St John introduce highlights of tonight's Coca-Cola Cup third-round replays. (395224)
12.45am The Little Picture Show. Wendy Lloyd reviews *Rob Roy* and talks to action film producer Jerry Bruckheimer. (138489)
1.45pm The Album Show (s) (1288915)
2.40pm Hollywood Report (s) (518864)
3.05pm America's Top Ten (s) (s) (51135266)
3.35pm Profile (s) (1461957)
3.40pm Sport AM (s) (4915373)
4.35pm McGillicuddy's Way: Shoe Men and Horses. Irish nature programme. (86472880)
5.00pm Vanessa (s) (Teletext) (s) (60064)
5.30pm ITN Morning News (78828). Ends at 6.00.

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35am Heathcliff. Cartoon series (s) (2518298)
7.00pm The Big Breakfast (70309)
9.00pm Evening Shade II (s) (27040)
9.30pm School. Good Health (4937089) 9.45pm Book Box (495224) 10.00pm Stage Two Science (381408)
10.15pm Making Sense of Science (146682) 10.45pm Your World (1798021) 10.55pm Film and Video Showcase (9174428) 11.07pm Schools at Work (7499175) 11.15pm The Mix (8663448) 11.30pm Rata-Tai-Tai (4261601) 11.45pm First Edition (s) (4266156)
12.00pm Spirits, Ghosts and Demons What life is like for children in contemporary China (s) (14576)
12.30pm Sesame Street. With Rick Moranis and Bill Irwin (21243) 1.30pm Lift Off (s) (s) (55311)
2.00pm Little Women in Transit. Three sisters on a long car journey start to argue about Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* (7624059)
2.05pm **FILM:** *A Shining Season* (1979) starring Timothy Bottoms. A made-for-television biopic of John Baker, an athlete who discovers he has cancer. Directed by Stuart Margolin. (Teletext) (765243)
4.00pm Think Tank. Team quiz. (Teletext) (s) (156)
4.30pm Fifteen To One. (Teletext) (s) (840)
5.00pm Rick Lake talks to people who have had fun at others' expense. (Teletext) (s) (4847935)
5.45pm Terrytoons and Murrin Buchstansangur (317021)
6.00pm My So-Called Life. (Teletext) (s) (71359)
7.00pm Channel 4 News. (Teletext) (803595)
7.55pm The Slot. Viewers' video snapshot (976311)
8.00pm Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (9040)

Gaby Roslin, right, in *Majorca* (8.30pm)

8.30pm **The Real Holiday Show**. (Teletext) (s) (8175)
9.00pm Dispatches. Sotheby's is accused of selling ancient relics that have been smuggled out of their country of origin. (Teletext) (8683)
10.00pm Northern Exposure. Off-beat American comedy set in Alaska. (Teletext) (s) (102446)
10.55pm Roy Bremner — Who Else? (s) (s) (408934)
11.35pm Moviemaster (s) (Teletext) (s) (726585)
12.15am 4.10 The Shooting Gallery. Another late-night series of short films, this time on a theme of "love hurts", begins with Bitch (6427606)
12.30pm Lube. A teenage girl is helped by a nine-year-old boy when a bat becomes entangled in her hair (1556880) 12.55pm A Modest Proposal (4945422)
1.10pm Lessons in the Language of Love. (s) (5814248)
1.30pm Urm. A cinematic poem (192460) 1.35pm Down in the City (554797)
1.55pm The Lady in Waiting (s) (1458428) 2.30pm Relax (s) (s) (2243915)
2.40pm The Ant Who Loved a Girl (s) (2249189) 2.50pm A Night With a Woman. A Day With Charlie (s) (5168422)
3.20pm No Head For Heights (s) (s) (15151267) 3.35pm Now That's Morning (s) (s) (17897644) 3.45pm Party Line. The winner of the 1993 Channel 4 Young Film Makers Prize at the Edinburgh Festival (18791460) Ends at 4.10

- ANGLIA**
- As London except: 12.55pm Coronation Street (8900221) 1.25pm Home and Away (8943839) 2.50pm 2.50pm Coronation Street (8900221) 3.00pm Coronation Street (8900221) 3.10pm Coronation Street (8900221) 3.20pm Coronation Street (8900221) 3.30pm Coronation Street (8900221) 3.40pm Coronation Street (8900221) 3.50pm Coronation Street (8900221) 4.00pm Coronation Street (8900221) 4.10pm Coronation Street (8900221) 4.20pm Coronation Street (8900221) 4.30pm Coronation Street (8900221) 4.40pm Coronation Street (8900221) 4.50pm Coronation Street (8900221) 5.00pm Coronation Street (8900221) 5.10pm Coronation Street (8900221) 5.20pm Coronation Street (8900221) 5.30pm Coronation Street (8900221) 5.40pm Coronation Street (8900221) 5.50pm Coronation Street (8900221) 6.00pm Coronation Street (8900221) 6.10pm Coronation Street (8900221) 6.20pm Coronation Street (8900221) 6.30pm Coronation Street (8900221) 6.40pm Coronation Street (8900221) 6.50pm Coronation Street (8900221) 7.00pm Coronation Street 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RACING 45

BRITISH CHALLENGE
FADES AWAY IN
MELBOURNE CUP

SPORT

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 1995

Venables keeps Ince on ice and his options open for 1996

Sinclair sights England chance

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE call-up of Trevor Sinclair, the dynamic and roving Queens Park Rangers forward, to the England squad yesterday demonstrates that, with eight months to go, Terry Venables still has an open mind, still a restless eye for the talent that will help him to win the European championship.

The squad to play Switzerland at Wembley on November 15, omits Paul Ince and John Barnes. It lacks Nick Barmby and Darren Anderson through injury, and it benefits from the recall of David Platt, Paul Gascoigne, Tim Flowers, Graeme Le Saux and Peter Beardsley.

However, it was the "surprise" inclusion of Sinclair that will send a message of hope to others, especially the young, still maturing footballers. The message is, keep performing week-in, week-out and, despite the desires of the coach, Venables, to build a reliable and trusted rapport, the full complement of 1996 candidates is still far from settled.

Sinclair, 22, is quick, brave, composed and, incidentally, a young man so proven at under-18 and under-21 levels, that there is, after all, a graduation process forming. He was recommended, not surprisingly, by Dave Sexton, the England Under-21 coach. He had played 13 times at under-21 level. A further reference was provided by Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager and England assistant, who said that Sinclair has been "the best visiting player" in the new Riverside stadium this season.

"His background is very good," said Venables. "He went to Lilleshall [the FA school of excellence], he came up through the under-18 and under-21s, and he did very well in that environment."

There are, nevertheless, conundrums in the elevation of Sinclair. A few months ago, Les Ferdinand felt he had to leave Loftus Road to make consistent progress towards full England recognition. When Ferdinand was with Rangers, Sinclair was a winger, serving the big man from the right or the left, proving

through pace, tenacity and an ability to get to the line, that he had the pedigree of a supplier. Then Ferdinand departed to score 17 goals in 15 league and cup matches for Newcastle United, still not enough, apparently, to force him into the England 11.

In his absence, Rangers brought Sinclair in from the wings, allowing him to follow his instincts, as he used to do with Blackpool. When the scouts came nosing around, the Rangers player-manager, Ray Wilkins, sent them packing by placing a whimsical £10million price on him.

Yesterday, while admitting he had wondered if newspaper speculation that he was to be in the squad could be true, Sinclair reiterated his intention to continue playing under

SQUAD

D Seaman (Arsenal), T Flowers (Blackburn Rovers), G Neville (Manchester United), R Jones (Liverpool), S Pearce (Nottingham Forest), G Le Saux (Blackburn Rovers), A Adams (Arsenal), G Pollard (Manchester United), S Howey (Newcastle United), G Southgate (Aston Villa), D Platt (Arsenal), P Gascoigne (Rangers), R Lee (Newcastle United), S McManaman (Liverpool), J Redknapp (Liverpool), S Stone (Nottingham Forest), T Sinclair (Queens Park Rangers), D Wiers (Chelsea), P Beardsley (Newcastle United), A Shearer (Blackburn Rovers), E Sheeringham (Tottenham Hotspur), L Ferdinand (Newcastle United)

Wilkins. "I've learnt so much from him, probably without him even knowing," Sinclair said. "I've watched the way he respects people, I've watched everything he has done and said on the training ground and at matches. I know I've plenty more to learn by staying at QPR."

Should he join England for anything more than training at Bisham Abbey, Sinclair could offer Venables two options. He can revert to the flanks, possibly even to prompt Ferdinand if Venables decides, as some are urging him to do, to try the Newcastle forward. This is not a slight against Alan Shearer, but there need to be a proven alternative should Shearer be injured or unavailable.

Alternatively, in his new club role, Sinclair has demon-

strated a relish for the position Barmby and Beardsley have occupied under Venables, the alert second forward playing off the main striker.

At Liverpool, they rightly believe Steve McManaman is in the form of his young life, also operating on a free rein rather than being pinned to the left flank where England have marooned him. McManaman and Redknapp are favourites of Venables, too, but it is disconcerting that John Barnes, who organises the Liverpool midfield so splendidly for them, is not in the squad.

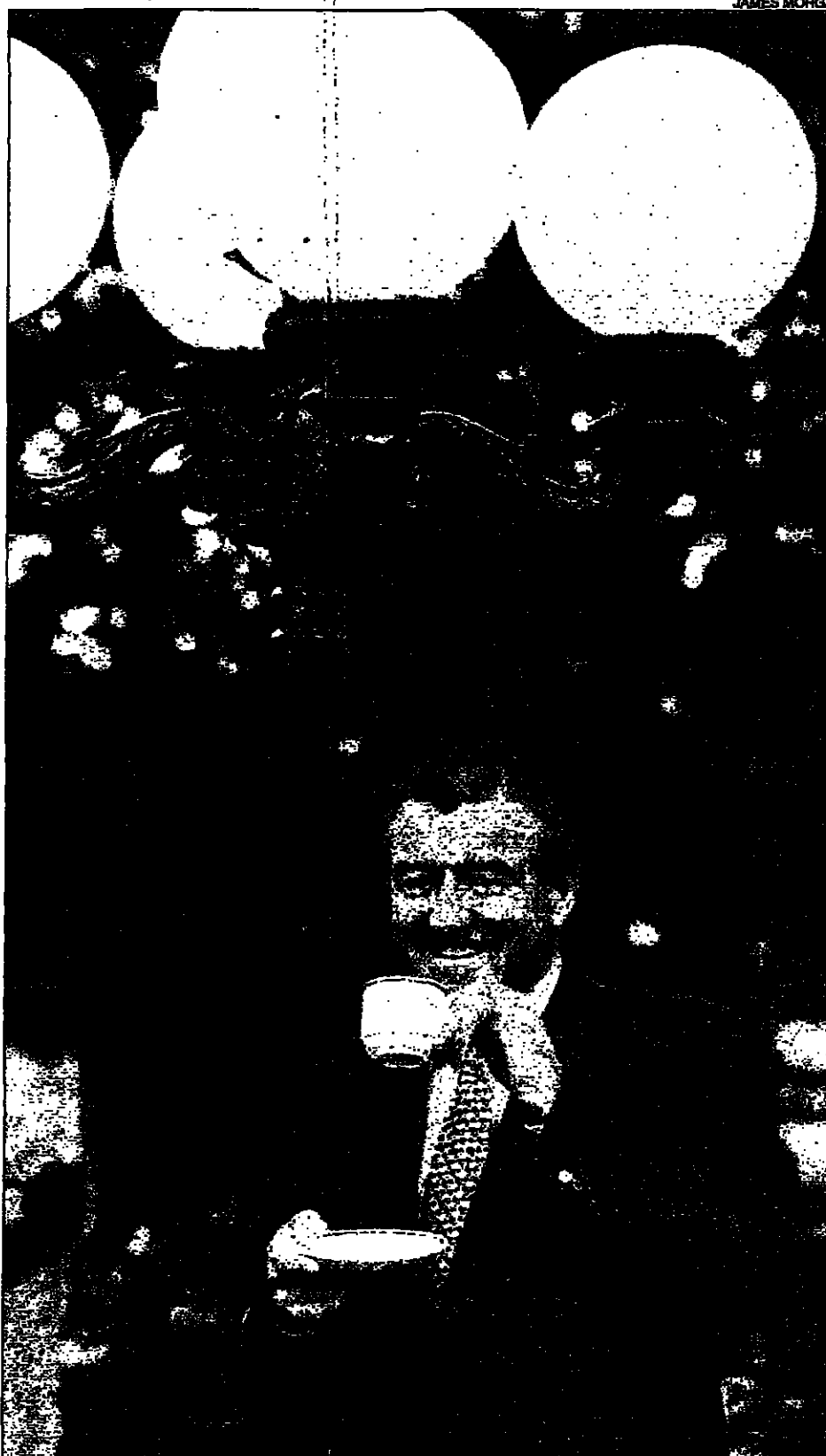
Barnes, 32 yesterday, has been redeployed in the playmaker role at Liverpool. He makes it so simple, so trustworthy, so imaginative. And, though clearly Venables favours Gascoigne's creative ability, his mood swings and fluctuations at Rangers are still alarming. Last week, against Juventus, he was virtually anonymous.

While Steve Stone, tenacity personified, deserves to stay in the squad, one cannot make the same observation of Dennis Wise. Others go to extraordinary lengths to advocate Paul Ince for his combative midfield qualities.

Venables visited him in Italy last Sunday. He did not see enough to convince him to recall Ince, and given that the player was subdued for his last three months with Manchester United, let alone struggling to bridge the gap of quality and culture in Italy, Venables cannot be faulted for offering Ince advice on first getting his attitude right for the challenge there.

Ince had barely 24 hours to ruminate on the words of the England coach. Yesterday's *Gazzetta dello Sport* reported Massimo Moratti, the Internazionale president, as saying: "If it were up to me, I'd keep him. But we absolutely need a forward." It appears Ince may be returning to England, possibly to Arsenal, but not yet to the national squad.

Maradona praised, page 43
Rushden's gem, page 43



Venables in relaxed mood as he announces his squad in London yesterday

Bates presses on without Harding

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

KEN BATES, the Chelsea chairman, believes he will have to press ahead with the club's blueprint for the future without the backing of the director, Matthew Harding.

Harding has maintained his seat on the board even though he has resigned as a director of Chelsea Village, the company which owns the west London club.

His resignation was accepted by Bates, who then released letters between the parties regarding the club's future. Bates is unhappy about Harding's apparent lack of enthusiasm for his plans.

Asked if he was optimistic about getting a response to his plans, Bates replied: "Put it like this, it has taken a year not to get one. All we have is fluff on the cappuccino."

Bates first sent a letter to Harding on October 19 outlining his plans. Harding responded on November 2, asking to be allowed to stand down from the board.

That prompted Bates to reply on November 4, when he told Harding: "These are serious matters to be addressed and cannot be avoided, skinned over or swept under the carpet."

"The alternative is to accept that Chelsea will never be one of the great clubs in the foreseeable future."

"Your letter, charming though it is, totally avoids any of the specific issues to be addressed if our totally worthy aims are to be achieved."

"You are a successful businessman. I have flagged up my thoughts and strategy to you often enough. Surely after

nearly a year the board is entitled to a detailed, measured response."

Bates detailed his long-term plans in his initial letter, claiming that the situation "necessitates addressing the following points:

1) How we continue to fund the manager's further requirements, although it is reasonable to assume this will be partly met by existing player sales.

2) How we finance the completion of the envisaged 40-45,000 capacity stadium at a cost of £27-£30 million.

3) How we progress and fund the rest of the Chelsea Village development.

4) How we plan the boardroom succession, securing the continuation of key personnel. Glenn Hoddle (the manager) is not the only important employee."

Harding wrote in a resignation letter: "I am presently unconvinced it is possible for me to represent equitably the individual objectives of Chelsea Village and its subsidiary company, Chelsea FC."

"Contrary to certain mischievous speculation, I have enjoyed our relationship these past two years and continue to count you as a friend."

The Football Association has warned that it will not become involved in an auction with the Premier League over television rights for the Football League. The FA chief executive, Graham Kelly, has written to all 72 Endsleigh Insurance League chairmen ahead of a meeting in London on Friday, outlining the principles of the five-year, £18.5 million joint Sky Television, BBC and ITV contract proposed by the FA.

Culprits keeping up with the Jones

Russell Kempson looks at the Wimbledon player's rivals in football's Hall of Shame

Jones, Dicks, Hurlock, Johnston, Dennis, Walsh, McDonough... a Who's Who of football rogues past and present, players who have inadvertently kept the Football Association's disciplinary department in gainful employment.

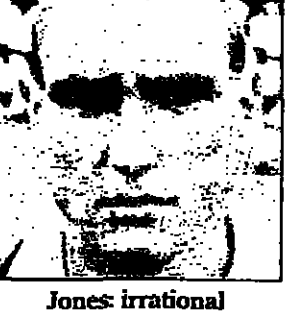
Where would the sport be without its *enfants terribles*? A much better place, most would agree. "Vinnie's career at Wimbledon must be seriously threatened," Mark Lawrenson, the former Liverpool defender, said yesterday in the rumbling aftermath of Jones's latest misdemeanour.

He was sent off after being cautioned twice in Wimbledon's 4-1 defeat away to Nottingham Forest on Monday, for verbally assailing Paul Alcock, the referee, and a subsequent foul on Bryan Roy, the Dutch striker.

Lawrenson, elegance personified in his playing prime, is possibly right. Jones, a former hood-carrier, has perhaps laboured his aggressive point once too often. It was the tenth sending-off in his ten-

year career — the eleventh if the dismissal, later annulled, against Liverpool two months ago is included. One was incurred for bullying Dave Woodhouse, an Isle of Wight postman, in a pre-season match against Shanklin in 1988.

Statistical anomalies have long given up counting



Jones: irrational

Jones's bookings. As legend has it, he passed 50 last season. Yet warnings, fines and suspensions have had little effect on the tattooed warrior whose leadership qualities can prove inspirational but whose indiscretions are so often irrational.

However, in football's Hall of Shame, Jones is not the worst offender. Willie Johnston, the former Rangers and Scotland winger, was sent off 15 times; Roy McDonough, 37, recently dismissed by Dagenham and Redbridge because of his disciplinary record, has made the lonely walk 13 times; Mark Dennis, the former Birmingham City defender, was dismissed 12 times and received 64 cautions.

Terry Hurlock, now of Fulham, was fined £350 and suspended for six weeks for reaching 51 disciplinary points last season; Steve Walsh, of Leicester City, has

amassed 11 sendings-off in 14 years; and, of course, there is Julian Dicks, the shaven-headed West Ham United full back who is about to begin a three-match ban after being found guilty of stamping on John Spencer, the Chelsea striker. Time to contemplate, perhaps, on his motley collection of nine dismissals and 55 bookings in 11 seasons, and the apparent injustice of it all.

Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon managing director, announced yesterday that the club may appeal against Jones's latest dismissal. He also reiterated his claims of Wimbledon's "victimisation" at the hands of match officials, and called for an FA investigation into the matter.

Though bordering on paranoia, Hammam's emotions are genuine and born of a long-held "them against us" mentality. Jones represents him and his beliefs on the pitch and, thus, should be defended in his frequent hours of need. Is it not time, though, for reality to replace loyalty?

Unfashionable Saracens set new trend for rugby's elite

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SARACENS, the self-confessed poor relations of first division rugby in England, yesterday became the first such club to announce an association with a single major investor. Within 12 hours the North London club not only became a limited company but welcomed the injection of £2.5 million from a City entrepreneur, Nigel Wray.

Wray, who played for Old Millhills against Saracens during the 1970s, is the executive chairman of Burford Holdings, a commercial property group. Even before Newcastle United's Sir John Hall and second-division Newcastle Gosforth came together in September, he was contemplating an alliance with Saracens which effectively secures the club's future.

It is a move which Saracens, of all the senior clubs, appreciate: in recent seasons they have lost emerging internationals such as Jason Leonard (to Harlequins), Dean Ryan (to Wasps) and Ben Clarke (to Bath), largely because of their unfashionable status. "For too long Saracens have been regarded as a feeder club for other, high-profile clubs," Wray, 47, said.

"I believe they have the potential to become London's premier club, capable of attracting the best players in Europe." To that end Wray will subscribe to £2 million-worth of shares in Saracens plc, joining the board as a non-executive director, and will underwrite a £500,000 share issue available, by next month, to existing members. The board will also seek to appoint a chief executive, at a salary unlikely to be less than £40,000.

Wray, far from regarding himself as a philanthropist, believes this to be a good business deal. "I am not very happy losing money," he said. "There is no bottomless pit for Saracens, we have to get out and improve ourselves. I have always liked the way they play the game but we have to invest in everything: the players, the ground, the spectators. You can't leave any one piece of the jigsaw behind."

The investment virtually guarantees that the promising England A back-row players, Tony Diprose and Richard

Hill — both the subject of offers from elsewhere — will stay at Southgate where, in a new spirit of accord with Enfield Borough Council, Saracens have outline planning permission for ground development. "We need to develop cash flow through the gate," Wray said. "But for many years the money will have to go back into the club. The dividend will be the creation of something very worthwhile for the whole community."

Saracens have sought an alternative ground to Bramley Road for many years but, since they are now regarded as one of the borough's two primary sporting assets, along with the local football club, they may yet stay in their public park accommodation, if they do they will hope in



Wray: entrepreneur

move slightly north and create other leisure amenities.

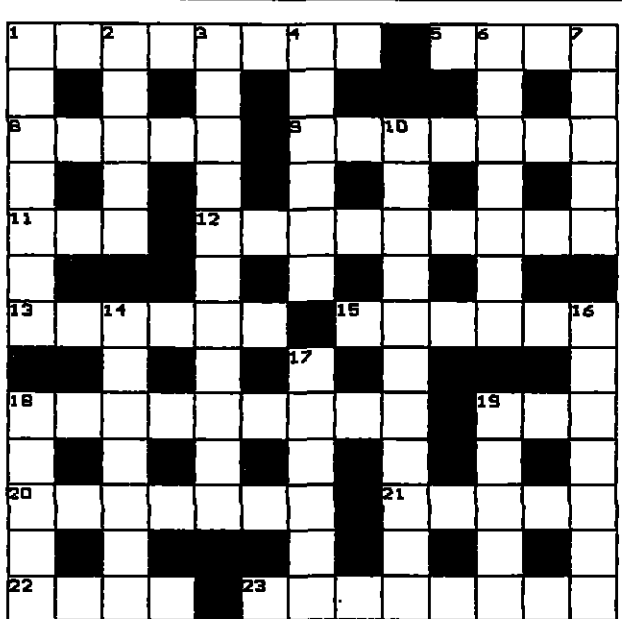
"Saracens' declared ambition is to be one of the best clubs in England," James Wyness, the president, said. "What has always been missing is resources. We have done wonders with what we have, now we have something more to take us forward."

Meanwhile, Moseley, from the second division, have had talks with Birmingham City football club about a possible alliance and Bath await the response of members to a questionnaire inviting support for investment in the club by a corporate body or a wealthy individual. In this respect, at least, Saracens are top of the table.

The way forward, page 44

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 621



ACROSS

- 1 Loss of honour, reputation (8)
5 Assistance (4)
8 Poisonous (5)
9 Command: part of bridge game (7)
11 Follower of Attila (3)
12 Held in particular affection (9)
13 Slip accompanying consignment (6)
15 Aphoristic (6)
16 With connected toes (3-6)
19 Achieved (3)
20 Statue brought to life for Prometheus (7)
21 Jog (5)

SOLUTION TO No 620

- ACROSS: 6 Precipitated 7 Gazump 8 Calais 9 Keen 10 Distress 12 Screw top 16 Moll 18 Prolix 20 Siney 21 Bunsen burner
DOWN: 1 Sequence 2 Tipped 3 Circus 4 Ball 5 Series 6 Prate 11 Ruminant 13 Curl up 14 Tacking 15 Poser 17 Lower 19 Lash

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 616

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

- ACROSS: 1 Bonsai 4 Banzai 8 Bump 9 Plethora 10 Insulting 13 Reach 15 Anima 16 Weeds 18 Egg-shaped 21 Dialogue 22 Stag 23 Mikado 24 Kimono
DOWN: 1 Bobbin 2 Namesake 3 Input 5 Autograph 6 Zoom 7 Isaiah 11 Leasehold 12 Icing 14 Acapulco 16 Wisdom 17 Adagio 19 Sleek 20 Bark

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network goes to Mark Nadin, Middleton Cheney, nr Banbury.
2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network goes to Lorraine Folbigg, Hillfield Road, Comerton. All flights subject to availability.

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Ministers aid for ho

By PHILIP WILSON

KENNETH CLARKE, now under pressure over Cabinet reshuffle, yesterday announced the £100 million including contributions from the Treasury and the Home Office to the £100 million fund for the reconstruction of the World Trade Centre in New York.

The new three-story building will be the largest in the world, and will be the largest in the world, and will be the largest in the world.

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